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Mrs E Robson
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Robson

Ofsted 2009-10 survey inspection programme: the impact that links between parents/carers and schools have on supporting and encouraging young people's achievement, well-being and personal development

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, parents and pupils, during my visit on the 2 February 2010.

As outlined in my initial letter, the visit had a particular focus on how the school's work with parents and carers affects a range of outcomes for pupils.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: interviews with staff, groups of parents, the chair of governors, parent-governors, pupils representing each year group, and an agency which supports the work of the school; and a scrutiny of relevant documentation. A sample of pupils' work was also analysed.

The overall effectiveness of the school's engagement with parents and carers is good.

The impact of parental involvement on outcomes

The impact of parental involvement on outcomes is good.

- An exceptionally high participation rate by parents and carers in consultation sessions, induction evenings and school events demonstrates a very strong commitment to their children's education and a willingness to engage with the school.

- Parents greatly value the regular formal opportunities to meet with staff where they are informed well about their children's learning and progress.
- Informal contact with staff provides parents with an important route from which they seek information and resolve any difficulties.
- Parents are keen to support pupils' learning at home. They appreciate the timely and helpful guidance provided, including curriculum information about the work being covered during a particular term.
- Effective and frequent communication ensures that parents are well informed about school life. School-home diaries offer an important conduit for the sharing of important information between parents and staff.
- Pastoral support for pupils is a very strong feature of the school's work and underpins its success in achieving high standards. This is particularly notable for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.

The impact of the involvement of parents on the quality of provision

The impact of the involvement of parents on the quality of provision is good.

- Effective induction arrangements enable parents to engage successfully with the school. Surveying the views of Reception parents ensures there is a genuine sense of dialogue from which further improvements can be considered.
- The views of parents have influenced school decision-making through changes, for example to school dinners and the school's uniform. Formal consultation with all parents is not, however, routinely embedded in school procedures.
- Parental support, including grandparents', in classrooms is used effectively and extensively to promote pupils' learning.
- The expertise and skills of some parents is used to good effect to support teaching and learning. However, as the school acknowledges, an audit of parents' skills and expertise would be helpful in identifying the contribution which a wider body of parents could bring to children's learning.
- The parent-teacher association (PTA) is very successful in fundraising activities and through promoting a wide range of community events.

The impact of the involvement of parents on inclusion

The impact of the involvement of parents on inclusion is outstanding.

- The school is very inclusive. Efforts to meet the needs of all pupils are exemplary with outcomes for almost all groups being significantly above average. The large majority makes exceptionally good progress in their learning.

- The school's efforts to support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities are excellent including the extended support offered to engage and help their families.
- The school works effectively with other agencies to ensure that vulnerable pupils are catered for very well.

The impact of leadership and management on the involvement of parents

The impact of leadership and management on the involvement of parents is good.

- The importance attached to the role of parents in supporting pupils' learning is reflected fully in the school's strategic documentation and is evident in the daily workings of the school. You have made a start on evaluating the direct impact of parental engagement on pupils' learning outcomes, although this is at a relatively early stage.
- Parents are well informed about their children's accomplishments through a good range of regular communications.
- The school responds effectively to information obtained from the informal sharing of views between parents and the school. However, formal consultation occurs infrequently and this limits opportunities for all parents to influence decision-making.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- extending the important start made to evaluating the impact of parental engagement on pupils' outcomes so that it becomes an integral part of the school's work
- establishing regular formal consultation with parents to ascertain their views, opinions and ideas as the basis for informing decision-making
- conducting an audit of parents' skills and expertise to strengthen their contribution to supporting the curriculum for pupils.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Tom Grieveson
Her Majesty's Inspector