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Mrs F Collins
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Collins

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, pupils and parents during my visit on 4 February 2010 to look at the impact that links between parents/carers and schools have on supporting and encouraging young people's achievement, well-being and personal development.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the aspect, 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: meetings with you, your staff and school governors; conversations with a range of parents and pupils; and scrutiny of relevant school documentation.

The overall effectiveness of the school's links with parents/carers and its impact on the outcomes for children are outstanding.

The impact of parental involvement on outcomes

The impact of parental involvement on outcomes is outstanding.

- Parents are ambitious for their children; for many the motto 'less than the best is not good enough' underpins their very active involvement in working with your school.
- Parents share your school's ethos and values and play a central role in promoting excellent behaviour and positive attitudes to learning. Children say they are consistently encouraged at home and helped with homework.
- Parents feel very welcome in your school and see you and your staff as friendly, approachable and responsive to their concerns and suggestions.
- There are also many regular opportunities for parents to learn about the curriculum and to become involved in their children's learning. Attendance at these events is consistently high.

The impact of parental involvement on the quality of provision

The impact of parental involvement on the quality of provision is outstanding.

- Many parents regularly support children's learning in class, accompany educational visits and lead clubs and activities. All of these parents receive induction, training and guidance on working with children.
- Parents' skills have also been used extensively in developing the curriculum. They have designed and built a new sound system for your hall, produced scenery and costumes for your regular drama productions and coached soloists in preparation for musical performances.
- Significant changes were made to the school's reporting procedures and consultation events as a result of parental feedback. The views of parents also play a significant and ongoing role in developing the 'relationship and sex' curriculum.
- Your vibrant parent association has been instrumental in raising funds for building projects such as the 'log cabin'. Access to your extended school provision has doubled as a result. Pupils also say that this facility has improved the quality of their experience of learning, particularly in music.
- Your school liaises exceptionally well with the home-school link worker.
- Wisely, you now plan to extend further the opportunities that parents have to come into school during the day and see their children learning in context.

The impact of the parental involvement on inclusion

The impact of the parental involvement on inclusion is outstanding.

- Parents say that, as a result of your leadership and the skills your staff, they feel that there is an extremely strong commitment to inclusion. Much of your school's success in this area derives from a willingness to work in very close partnership with parents and to 'learn together'.
- Your school works exceptionally well with the families of those children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, who are vulnerable

or who have English as an additional language. Consequently, these children are integrated into the school very well; parents say they are happy, cared for and make very good progress, especially in terms of their personal development.

- Staff at your school work with outside agencies skilfully so that families have access to a wide and appropriate range of support.

The impact of leadership and management on the involvement of parents

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

- There is an explicit and well-embedded philosophy of working with parents that is clearly identified in the school's aims and is integrated into your development planning. The recent 'working in partnership with parents' award demonstrates that you and your staff are constantly seeking to improve and extend the ways to work successfully with parents.
- Your school evaluates its work with parents systematically and very regularly. The findings of these surveys are fed back to parents on a regular basis.
- The annual meeting of governors with parents is used very effectively as a means of communication and consultation with parents.
- Parent-governors play a leading role in driving parental involvement. Their evaluations are sharp and help to focus any ongoing work in this area. For example, you are currently planning to update the existing skills audit of parents so that their involvement can be employed even more strategically.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- extending further the opportunities for parents to come into school and see their children learning in context
- updating the existing skills audit of parents so that their involvement can be employed even more strategically.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop the impact of the work of parents and carers in the school.

As I explained previously, 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

Chris Wood
Her Majesty's Inspector