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Ms M Lynes
Headteacher
Abbeydale Primary School
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Sheffield
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Dear Ms Lynes

Ofsted 2010-11 best practice study: English

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 15 June 2010 to look at work in English, particularly the school's approach to teaching writing.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our publication about best practice in English. The publication will include case studies about individual providers. If your school is included as a case study, you will have an opportunity to comment before publication. Individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included interviews with staff and pupils, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of three lessons.

Features of good practice observed:

- clear identification of a systematic approach to teaching writing that has been consistently implemented across the school and meets pupils' learning needs well
- evidence of more positive attitudes from pupils towards writing, greater self-confidence, and early indications of improved standards
- very good opportunities for pupils of all ages to produce regular, good-quality extended writing
- a clear focus on the form and structure of writing that provides good support for pupils who do not routinely speak English at home
- good quality modelling of writing by teachers
- a thoughtful approach to reviewing pupils' progress and following up feedback within development time sessions

- clear integration of writing tasks across different areas of the curriculum, well supported by the use of first-hand experience to stimulate pupils and provide a meaningful context for their writing.

Areas for development

- To review opportunities for pupils to edit their work as part of the school's writing programme.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop English in the school.

As explained previously, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on the Ofsted website under the URN for your school. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Philip Jarrett
Her Majesty's Inspector