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Mr M Hinton
Headteacher
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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Dear Mr Hinton

Ofsted 2011–12 survey inspection programme: a review of anti-bullying practice in schools

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 20 September 2011 as part of our survey of schools' work to create a positive school culture and prevent and tackle bullying.

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 without their consent.

This letter briefly summarises our discussion at the end of the visit.

Strengths of this aspect of the school's work

- You have a good understanding of the links between creating and maintaining a positive, inclusive culture and raising attainment for all pupils. This is evident in the wide-ranging actions you have taken since your appointment in January 2011.
- You have set a clear direction for the school's renewed ethos and culture. You are firm about the importance of staff modelling desired behaviours to the pupils at all times, and your own actions set a very good example. Staff appreciate the way in which you and other senior leaders constantly reinforce the school's values to pupils, staff and parents, particularly through assemblies and Masses.
- The newly refurbished parts of the school help to convey the school's high expectations, as do the high-quality displays which promote the school's positive ethos and Catholic values. Where there has been no

refurbishment, staff have to work hard to create a reasonable working environment for the pupils.

- Pupils have a strong sense of responsibility for each other. Even some of the youngest children can explain the importance of letting others join in, and helping them if they are unhappy, and this is reflected in their behaviour. Staff constantly model positive interactions and praise and encourage pupils to make good choices.
- Your initiatives to promote cultural awareness in the school and the community have been very well received. Two 'cultural weeks' involved parents in sharing food, dance, stories, language, songs and artefacts with each other and their children. This has had a positive impact on the knowledge and understanding of pupils, staff and parents and their appreciation of each other's cultures and faiths.
- The oldest pupils have a mature understanding of individual differences. They can talk confidently about race, religion and different appearances and personalities and how different people can work and live harmoniously together. Their understanding has been greatly enhanced by the focus on diversity that you have introduced to the school. They are empathetic and believe that it is important for them to model good attitudes to younger pupils.
- You have introduced an appropriate new system to record incidents, including any that relate to bullying. This has improved the amount and quality of information available to plan any necessary actions.
- Pupils have a high level of faith in the school's response to bullying. They feel that there is very little bullying in the school and that it will always be dealt with well. Older pupils show a good understanding of the difference between minor incidents, friends falling out, and systematic bullying.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- reviewing the new incident logs on a regular basis to assess the effectiveness of the actions taken, to decide on further actions needed, and to look at any patterns and trends
- considering how governors can take a more active and focused role in evaluating the success of the many initiatives, including those that relate to school culture, diversity and bullying
- revising the behaviour policy at an appropriate point so that it reflects the positive culture and clear expectations in the school.

I hope that this visit has been useful in the further development of this aspect of the school's work.

As explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Sue Morris-King
Her Majesty's Inspector