

2 February 2011

Mr P Harris  
Headteacher  
Curwen Primary and Nursery School  
Atlas Road  
London  
E13 0AG

Dear Mr Harris

### **Ofsted 2010–11 survey inspection programme: nurture groups**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and children, during my visit on 13 January 2011 as part of our survey of the use of nurture groups for pupils who are vulnerable to underachieving.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to a national report. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributors or contributing institutions but individuals and 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 the nurture group provision**

- The group operates during lunchtime and each identified child has the opportunity to attend for one half-hour session each week. For some children, this follows a period of more intensive support during the previous term. The group is small and focuses on developing children's social skills and self-esteem.
- The group forms part of a wider range of support for children. Many of the children who attend also benefit from attending clubs before and after school, several of which are designed specifically to improve children's personal development. They may also benefit from individual mentoring and additional support for literacy, numeracy and behaviour management.
- Parents and pupils spoken to during the visit were very positive about the work of the group.
- The school has detailed referral procedures and monitors closely the progress of children who receive support from the group.

**Areas for improvement, which we discussed:**

- making better use of pupils' targets to ensure that activities are linked closely to children's specific needs
- auditing the nurture group alongside the other provision that supports children's personal development to evaluate how the activities complement each other.

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

As I 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

**Heather Yaxley**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**