

8 August 2008

School Inspection Project
Ofsted
Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

Dear Sir/Madam

DEA response to 'A focus on improvement: proposals for maintained school inspections from Sept 2009'

DEA is an education charity that promotes global learning. For learners and society to flourish in a world which faces issues such as global poverty, climate change and racial and religious tensions, DEA believes that education should put learning in a global context, fostering:

- critical and creative thinking;
- self-awareness and open-mindedness towards difference;
- understanding of global issues and power relationships; and
- optimism and action for a better world.

We welcome the opportunity to comment on Ofsted's proposals. Whilst being broadly in agreement, we'd like to make the following comments:

- We are concerned that the short inspections will lead to an overreliance on test and exam results as indicators of quality education. This should be avoided.
- We welcome Ofsted's interest in Education for Sustainable Development and hope that the report, 'Schools and sustainability' (070173) will inform the development of Ofsted's inspection models and that Ofsted will ensure there is space to inspect these areas.
- In the above report, Ofsted states that all schools should *'give pupils the opportunity to put their understanding of local issues into a global context, so that they see how their decisions can have an impact on others now and in the future'*. Different inspectors react differently to work in schools around global learning. Inspectors need to be well trained to recognise the value of global learning and respond consistently to practice in this area. We are concerned that in some cases excellent work is taking place and is not recognised. In other cases, practices such as unreflective fundraising which leads to negative perceptions of the recipients and does not lead to critical learning are being praised by inspectors.

- QCA's new statutory aims for the secondary curriculum of Confident Individuals, Successful Learners and Responsible Citizens should form a key element of the secondary inspection framework.
- We have had reports that the Race Relations Amendment Act is not being complied with. It is important that Ofsted considers how it inspects this.

I hope these comments are useful and look forward to seeing how the proposals are developed.

Yours faithfully

Helen Young
Policy and Research Manager