

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



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Mrs G Goldbrough
Headteacher
Brabins Endowed School
Longridge Road
Chipping
Preston
PR3 2QD

Dear Mrs Goldbrough

Ofsted 2010–11 subject survey inspection programme: physical education (PE)

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils, during my visit on 7 October 2010 to look at work in PE.

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.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: interviews with staff and pupils; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' reports; and observation of three lessons and playtimes.

The overall effectiveness of PE is outstanding.

Achievement in PE

Achievement in PE is outstanding.

- Pupils' attainment is above the expectations for their age. Pupils perform confidently in many sports and swimming and a good number go on to represent their school at district or county level.
- Pupils have a very good understanding of tactics and strategies within games and they enjoy composing complex sequences in gymnastics and in dance. They confidently evaluate their own and each other's performances. They have a very secure understanding of how to keep themselves fit and healthy and the vast majority adopt a healthy lifestyle.
- Children in the Reception class have good opportunities for physical play and well-structured PE lessons so that they make good progress in their physical development. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities make similar progress to their peers because they are fully

included in all activities and staff are aware of the support they need. Pupils identified as talented make outstanding progress and are encouraged to excel in their chosen sport.

- Pupils' behaviour is excellent and their enthusiasm and commitment to sport and PE are outstanding. Pupils have a very healthy attitude to competition and fully appreciate the concept of fair play.

Quality of teaching in PE

The quality of teaching in PE is good.

- Teachers set high expectations of participation, improvement and behaviour. Relationships are very positive. Pupils enjoy lessons and say they are fun and challenging and that they learn a great deal.
- Secure subject expertise, including swimming, enables teachers to provide a good variety of learning activities that engages pupils and ensures they are challenged to achieve their best. Pupils maintain good levels of physical activity in lessons.
- Good questioning encourages pupils to reflect on their performance. However, occasionally there is not enough emphasis on improving the quality and control of actions alongside widening the variety of movements.
- Assessment strategies are used well to support pupils' learning. Teachers record pupils' progress rigorously ensuring that lesson planning builds on pupils' prior learning. Teachers give encouragement and feedback to pupils in lessons so that they know how well they are doing and what to do to improve. Reports are detailed and give parents a very good overview of progress in the subject. Information on pupils' achievements in PE is not passed on to secondary schools.

Quality of the curriculum in PE

The quality of the PE curriculum is outstanding.

- The local authority scheme is adapted very well to meet pupils' different needs. All pupils are involved in at least two hours of PE each week and the vast majority at least three hours. Playtime activities are very well organised and older pupils lead play activities for younger pupils.
- A large majority of pupils take part in extra-curricular activities. The highly successful partnerships developed with the School Sport Partnership and the Chipping Children's Community Alliance have helped to provide an outstanding range of activities for pupils of all ages.
- The Travel Plan has encouraged more pupils to walk or cycle to school supporting their health and fitness well. A productive garden and a hen run in the school grounds provide further opportunities for pupils to be involved in physical activity. Education for health and safety are very strong.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PE

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PE is outstanding.

- The subject leader is an excellent role model for pupils. Leaders and staff are fully committed to improving provision and ensuring that every pupil is regularly involved in good levels of physical activity.
- PE, sport and health have a very high profile across the school. Pupils are highly active at lunchtimes and extensive grounds have been specifically designed to give plenty of variety in physical play and other physical activities such as gardening. Innovations include the opportunity for Year 6 pupils to use the Wii sport player at breaktimes.
- Close monitoring of provision and pupils' achievements leads to well-targeted improvements, such as broadening of extra-curricular opportunities for pupils in Key Stage 1 and the Reception class, and well focused professional development opportunities for staff.
- The excellent partnerships forged within the local community and the School Sport Partnership support improvements further.
- PE activities are carried out safely. However, the written risk assessments are not always comprehensive enough, particularly in relation to using the hall and a private swimming facility.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- improving the rigour of the risk assessments of PE and swimming activities
- ensuring that in all lessons there is sufficient emphasis of improving the quality and control of pupils' performances, not only the variation of movements.

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

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. Except in the case of academies, a copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Salter-Smith
Additional Inspector