

Aviation House  
125 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231  
F 020 7421 6855  
[enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)



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Mrs C Salmon  
Headteacher  
The Leys Primary and Nursery School  
Ripon Road  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG1 4QZ

Dear Mrs Salmon

### **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 19 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 two lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PE is satisfactory.

#### **Achievement in PE**

Achievement in PE is satisfactory.

- Pupils make satisfactory progress. The majority of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage attain the expected level in physical development before they enter Year 1, although outcomes overall are below the national and local authority mean. The school's assessment records show that attainment in Key Stage 1 continues to be below average but improves in Key Stage 2, particularly in games activities. Despite receiving a good start in swimming in Key Stage 1, too few pupils reach the national standard before they leave in Year 6.
- Pupils' involvement in PE and sport is having a positive impact on their personal development and well-being. Pupils enjoy their lessons, showing positive attitudes and participating with enthusiasm. Pupils in Year 6 are able to explain how they have improved their football skills this term. Pupils know that their involvement in physical activities helps them to keep

fit. Case studies show that the behaviour and attendance of individual pupils have improved because of their participation in sports activities. Additional support programmes are provided through the sports partnership for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Suitable plans are in place to introduce play-leader training for Year 6 pupils but currently no additional activities are organised for pupils who are talented at sport.

### **Quality of teaching in PE**

The quality of teaching in PE is good.

- Two lessons were observed during the inspection. These were well-organised, planned precisely, and conducted at a good pace. Resources were used effectively, particularly in the Year 6 lesson, to enable pupils to develop and apply their skills. Pupils behaved well and worked cooperatively together in groups; the lesson for Year 1 pupils was particularly effective in helping to develop personal and social skills. Each lesson started with a body management routine designed to develop pupils' coordination and a vigorous warm up to raise fitness levels.
- Assessment in the lessons observed was good with pertinent questioning, observations and coaching points used to help pupils to improve their responses. Pupils were asked to demonstrate their skills and encouraged to evaluate the success of their own performances. Currently, information and communication technology is not used to support assessment. Reports written for parents on their children's work in PE provide limited detail on pupils' overall achievements.

### **Quality of the curriculum in PE**

The quality of the PE curriculum is satisfactory.

- All areas of learning are included in the PE curriculum, although there is no overall plan to indicate when each area of learning is taught over the year. Most pupils take part in two hours of timetabled physical activity each week, with swimming included for all year groups during the year. Dance is linked well to learning in other subjects. Pupils in Year 6 who are due to attend a week-long residential visit will participate in a wide range of outdoor and adventurous activities.
- Staff and community coaches organise and run several extra-curricular sports clubs, which are attended by a minority of pupils. The subject leader has suitable plans to extend the range of clubs to increase participation, especially by younger pupils. Pupils also take part in inter-school competitions and tournaments organised by the local sports partnership. A house system has been established to increase pupils' participation in intra-school sport.

## **Effectiveness of leadership and management in PE**

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PE is satisfactory.

- Leaders recognise the importance of PE and sport in promoting pupils' development. They are committed to improving further the quality of provision and outcomes for pupils. The subject leader has completed a useful subject evaluation from which action points for improvement have been identified, although they lack precise success criteria with which to judge the impact for pupils. Good links have been established with the sports coordinator from the local sports partnership to help develop the provision further.
- PE and sport have a suitably high profile in displays in the school halls and through the celebration of pupils' achievements in assemblies. A positive start has been made to establishing an effective system for assessing and recording pupils' attainment and progress. Indoor and outdoor accommodation is good and resources for PE are managed well.

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

- working more closely with instructors to improve pupils' attainment and progress in swimming in Key Stage 2
- increasing the proportion of pupils who participate in three hours or more of physical activities
- drawing up an overall plan to show when all the areas of learning in PE will be taught to ensure a suitable breadth and balance in the curriculum.

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

**Rob McKeown**  
**Additional Inspector**