

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

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



11 March 2011

Mrs A Bowyer
Headteacher
Wainstalls School
Wainstalls
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX2 7TE

Dear Mrs Bowyer

Ofsted 2010–11 subject survey inspection programme: personal, social and health education (PSHE)

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils, during my visit on 1 March 2011 to look at work in PSHE.

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' work; and observation of four lessons and one assembly.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE is good.

Achievement in PSHE

Achievement in PSHE is good.

- Pupils have a good knowledge of what is meant by a balanced diet which is enhanced by Year 6 pupils running the tuck shop and understanding what constitutes a healthy snack. Pupils know the importance of exercise and keeping fit. Many take part in a wide range of sporting activities.
- Pupils' understanding of staying safe in a range of situations is excellent. Two pupils in Year 6 have trained as road safety officers and raise the awareness of all pupils, parents and carers very well.
- Pupils are well informed about the different types of bullying, including cyber bullying and racist bullying.
- Older pupils have a good knowledge of how to manage money through running the tuck shop and 'make £1 grow' initiative. They have

opportunities to be involved in work in teams and raise money for a number of charities.

- Personal development is very good. Pupils develop good social skills, are able to express their ideas and take part in discussion activities. A small minority do not always listen well to others.

Quality of teaching in PSHE

The quality of teaching in PSHE is good.

- Teachers demonstrate good subject knowledge, high levels of enthusiasm and confidence. The planning of lessons is very detailed.
- Good use is made of information and communication technology and resources to provide visual stimulus and enhance learning.
- In some lessons, there are examples of well-structured group work, with clear tasks and roles assigned to pupils leading to good independent working.
- Learning support assistants are used very effectively in lessons to support individuals or small groups of pupils.
- Very good relationships are established in lessons. Teachers are encouraging and manage behaviour well so that all pupils enjoy learning.
- The work in PSHE lessons is not always matched sufficiently well to the needs of more able pupils. There is a lack of challenge.
- A range of assessment opportunities is developing well and includes a more formal approach to monitoring pupils' progress.

Quality of the curriculum in PSHE

The quality of the curriculum in PSHE is good.

- The curriculum is wide ranging and encompasses discrete lessons, assemblies, cross-curricular themes and themed days on issues such as health. Links with other subjects are good and PSHE is well mapped out.
- The school has achieved the Healthy Schools award which has made a very constructive contribution to pupils' attitudes to healthy lifestyles. It has provided exciting opportunities, such as the gardening club, giving the opportunity for pupils to grow vegetables and use them to make soup.
- Very effective use is made of external agencies and specialists to enhance the curriculum and make learning more interesting and fun, such as theatre groups, the police and fire brigade.
- The social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) initiative is very well integrated into the work of the school. This is reflected in the pupils' improved emotional development. It is used well as the foundation for the PSHE curriculum.
- Economic well-being is covered adequately and the introduction of a 'money week' will ensure a broader range of coverage.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE

Leadership and management in PSHE are good.

- PSHE is given high priority by all in this school with a strong focus on personal and emotional development.
- The PSHE coordinator is dedicated, and has an accurate overview of the subject. Development plans are precise and ensure that PSHE is continually being reviewed and the curriculum is relevant.
- Monitoring and evaluation are effective in reviewing provision and improving pupils' progress. However, lessons are not monitored formally.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring that activities and tasks in PSHE lessons better match the needs of more able pupils.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop PSHE 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

Davinder Dosanjh
Her Majesty's Inspector