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Mr K Bailey
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Bailey

Ofsted 2011–12 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 16 June 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 outstanding.

Achievement in PSHE

Achievement in PSHE is outstanding.

- Pupils' personal development is outstanding. They make exceptional progress in their personal and social skills as they move through the school. They have many opportunities to take on leadership activities and work collaboratively in teams. Pupils are confident and articulate and show respect for others' feelings.
- Pupils have an excellent understanding of how to stay healthy. They comprehend fully the importance of regular exercise and keeping fit. Many put this into practice and enjoy the wide range of sporting activities available and older pupils act as play leaders and represent the school in many sporting events.
- Pupils demonstrate a detailed knowledge of how to keep themselves safe both inside and outside of school.

- Pupils are exceptionally well informed about the dangers and effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco on their bodies. They understand the nature of addiction and the difference between legal and illegal drugs.
- Pupils have an impressive understanding of bullying and can identify different types and the consequences of bullying. They have many opportunities to think about resisting peer-group pressure and dealing with emotions.
- Pupils have excellent opportunities to develop knowledge of how to manage money and understand credit and debit. Older pupils work independently to organise enterprise activities such as a mini-market.

Quality of teaching in PSHE

The quality of teaching in PSHE is good.

- Teachers demonstrate very good subject knowledge and confidence. Lessons are well structured and carefully prepared.
- Excellent relationships are established in lessons, so all pupils enjoy learning. Some teaching is innovative, such as Year 6 pupils sharing the story sacks they have made with Reception pupils.
- An extensive range of high-quality resources and activities is used well to engage and motivate pupils and make learning purposeful. For example, the Shrek challenge to develop teamwork skills through physical education.
- Teachers explain clearly what pupils will be learning and display high levels of enthusiasm in lessons. Pupils are able to work effectively in groups, leading to independent working.
- Teachers deal expertly with sensitive issues such as feelings and emotions and manage discussions very effectively. This creates a safe environment in which all can contribute.
- A good range of assessment activities is planned into lessons. However the monitoring, recording and reporting of pupil progress in PSHE are not always detailed.

Quality of the curriculum in PSHE

The quality of the curriculum in PSHE is outstanding.

- The curriculum provides pupils with a plethora of enriching opportunities. It is imaginative and stimulating, and includes international links. Pupils have the opportunity take part in three residential visits.
- PSHE is well mapped across the school to ensure that key elements are covered and revisited at appropriate times.
- Healthy Schools status has made an excellent contribution to pupils' attitudes to healthy lifestyles.

- There is a strong focus on managing money through making and selling products, market stalls and money week. Progression from Reception to Year 6 is very good.
- Well-targeted support meets the needs of pupils whose circumstances make them potentially vulnerable. This support includes social skills groups, games club, lads and dads club and climbing activities for girls with low self-esteem.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE is outstanding.

- PSHE is embedded through the school. The whole ethos of the school promotes personal development, cooperation and respect. This is strikingly evident within pupils' relationships, and displays of pupils' work around the school. The school is a vibrant community where pupils flourish.
- The leadership of PSHE is innovative and well informed about best practice. The commitment from staff and pupils is excellent. The school is at the forefront of initiatives such as international links with China, Gambia, India and France. These have been sustained and developed over a number of years.
- The engagement with external agencies, community groups and parents is impressive, providing many opportunities and benefits for pupils.
- Monitoring and evaluation are very effective, leading to an improvement in pupils' outcomes. There is an accurate understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- strengthening the monitoring, recording and reporting of PSHE.

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