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Mr N Harris
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Harris

Ofsted 2011–12 subject survey inspection programme: citizenship

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils, during my visit on 22 September 2011 to look at work in citizenship.

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, the chair of governors and pupils; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' work; discussions with pupils; and observation of four lessons, an awards assembly and two extra-curricular activities.

The overall effectiveness of citizenship is satisfactory.

Achievement in citizenship

Achievement in citizenship is satisfactory.

- Pupils' knowledge and understanding of the key areas of citizenship are satisfactory. They have a strong sense of fairness and understand that their actions have consequences. Pupils demonstrate good understanding of their responsibilities within the school community.
- Pupils are well informed about a wide range of issues in terms of their personal development through the school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme which is delivered alongside the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme.
- Pupils demonstrate satisfactory understanding of the features of democracy. The recent visit of the Lord Mayor to the school and pupils' preparation for the visit to the Birmingham City Council has helped to

reinforce their understanding of local government and democratic processes.

- Pupils' knowledge and understanding of diversity are satisfactory; they show sensitive awareness of difference in culture and ethnicity and of the need for respect. They have limited knowledge and understanding of human rights, prejudice and discrimination.
- Pupils in Year 6 demonstrate satisfactory knowledge and understanding of children's rights through their work comparing their lives with those of children during the Victorian period. Pupils' oral skills are better than their writing skills. There are few examples of sustained pieces of writing which reflect their levels of understanding.

Quality of teaching in citizenship

The quality of teaching in citizenship is satisfactory.

- Teachers demonstrate enthusiasm and good subject knowledge of the schools PSHE and SEAL programmes. However, their knowledge and understanding of the citizenship programme are more limited. They value pupils' opinions and create a positive climate for learning. Pupils contribute their ideas and opinions with confidence; for example when offering suggestions for developing the nature area.
- Pupils contribute their ideas and opinions when asked to do so. For example, pupils in Year 4 were asked to discuss and write a poem about what makes a good friend. However, this level of engagement is not widespread across the school.
- Teachers do not regularly use information and communication technology in lessons; neither do pupils to research topical issues. In some lessons, teachers use a range of effective approaches, including whole-class discussions, pair and group work. Consequently, pupils enjoy their learning and engage well with the teaching.
- Teachers' knowledge and understanding of the citizenship key concepts and their importance in the curriculum are limited. Consequently, their questioning skills to develop pupils' thinking and subject vocabulary are underdeveloped.
- The school acknowledges that there is no formal assessment of citizenship although pupils' oral contributions in lessons are noted.

Quality of the curriculum in citizenship

The quality of the curriculum in citizenship is inadequate.

- Some elements of the citizenship themes are planned through the school's well-established PSHE and SEAL curriculum and contribute to pupils' good behaviour and positive attitudes to learning. Pupils are particularly responsive to supporting each other as demonstrated through their work as mentors and 'playground pals'.

- Pupils have satisfactory opportunities to engage in discussion, debate and decision-making in school. However, opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge of local and global environmental issues are underdeveloped.
- The school is at the very early stages of planning the key elements of citizenship into the curriculum and has sensibly planned to address this as part of the forthcoming curriculum review.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in citizenship

The effectiveness of leadership and management in citizenship is satisfactory.

- You and the subject leader have a clear view of the place of citizenship within the school. Your vision is represented in the school's PSHE and SEAL programme and through the wider school ethos.
- There is a strong commitment to help all pupils, particularly those who are new to the school, feel part of a cohesive school community and develop the knowledge, understanding and decision-making skills required to make a positive contribution in the school.
- The monitoring and evaluation of teaching, learning and the effectiveness of the curriculum are not specific to the subject. The school is aware that improvements are needed to develop the citizenship curriculum and the systematic assessment of pupils' work as they move through the school so that their progress can be monitored.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring that the curriculum is planned to include all the key elements of citizenship and provides structured opportunities for pupils to improve their written work in the subject
- developing assessment in citizenship so that pupils' progress across the school can be monitored more closely.

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

As 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. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Rashida Sharif
Her Majesty's Inspector