

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 L Wigglesworth  
Headteacher  
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School  
Henshall Avenue  
Latchford  
Warrington  
WA4 1PY

Dear Mrs Wigglesworth

### **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 11 October 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 and pupils; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' work; and observation of seven lessons.

The overall effectiveness of citizenship is good.

#### **Achievement in citizenship**

Achievement in citizenship is good.

- Pupils demonstrate secure understanding of most of the subject's key aspects; notably, in terms of their understanding of fairness and justice, right and wrong, the issues around sustainability and the environment.
- From the early years onwards, pupils develop good understanding of identity and diversity. For example, the disability awareness week undertaken in the Early Years Foundation Stage provides an excellent introduction; this is progressively developed throughout the school.
- Pupils are less secure in their understanding of democracy and how government works. Several Year 6 pupils are confident here but this is not widespread. Pupils also have relatively little understanding of how the media influences our views.

- The school's ethos supports the development of pupils' personal skills and qualities particularly well. Pupils are considerate of others, demonstrating empathy and compassion for those experiencing hardship, as indicated through their caring responses to charities and the decisions they make about support for these.
- Good opportunities are provided for pupils to be active citizens in school and take the lead in various initiatives. Pupils enjoy their roles on the school council, as prefects, playground leaders and eco warriors and also take responsibility readily in lessons. The school council is suitably inclusive in that the suggestion boards in classrooms are used well to enable all pupils to have a voice. Consequently, pupils feel they are listened to and can explain why having pupils as leaders is a good thing.

### **Quality of teaching in citizenship**

The quality of teaching in citizenship is good with some outstanding features.

- The teaching observed was consistently good with some of it outstanding. Teachers are confident, provide good specialist knowledge and are very clear about the citizenship learning incorporated in their lessons.
- A good variety of approaches is used to engage pupils and sustain their interest, including the consistently effective use of technology to enhance learning. Regular opportunities are provided for pupils to talk, offer their ideas and opinions, make decisions and justify these. Such opportunities are well-organised with pupils responding well, enjoying their learning and contributing their ideas readily and sensibly. However, occasionally, the most able pupils are not always fully challenged to extend their thinking or develop their responses to a higher level.
- Teachers are effective in promoting the development of pupils' personal skills and qualities. They consistently support pupils to explore how others might feel and consider the views and feelings of others. This was observed across all year groups.
- The monitoring and assessment of pupils' work in personal, social and health education and citizenship (PSHEC) are developing well. The use of levels is helpful in tracking and monitoring pupils' progress in the subject.

### **Quality of the curriculum in citizenship**

The quality of the curriculum in citizenship is good.

- Overall, the curriculum is thoughtful and well planned. In addition to the discrete element in PSHEC, which makes a good contribution to pupils' learning, citizenship is successfully woven across many aspects of the wider creative curriculum through the 'Unique Child' approach.
- The curriculum covers some hard-hitting topics sensitively and usefully focuses on action for change. For example, a successful Year 1 lesson considered the problems regarding the lack of clean water in parts of Africa and the role of charities such as Water Aid in addressing this issue.

In this way, pupils are grasping the actions that individuals and groups can take to bring about change.

- Generally, the curriculum covers much appropriate content. However, some elements are given insufficient coverage, for example democracy and how government works. Here several opportunities are missed; for instance, the work on Egypt lends itself to coverage of the 'Arab Spring' uprising and the quest for democracy from the Egyptian people. The school is aware of this and has plans to address it.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management in citizenship is good with some outstanding features.

- You have established a clear vision for the subject and secured its place in the curriculum. The school's faith ethos and atmosphere strongly reinforce the importance of respect and tolerance of others and the significance of responsible actions. This has a positive impact on pupils' values and attitudes and their learning in citizenship.
- A consistent approach has been secured in terms of teaching quality. Teachers routinely plan well, have suitably high expectations and deliver consistently good lessons that lead to good learning.
- The subject leader is capable, confident and well-organised. Good planning is evident; subject documentation is detailed with the rationale for citizenship clearly identified.

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

- strengthening those aspects of the curriculum that are currently covered in less detail
- ensuring that the curriculum allows for more able pupils to extend their thinking and develop their responses.

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

**Judith Matharu**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**