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Mrs A Smythe
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Smythe

Ofsted 2011–12 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 9 February 2012 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; and observation of two lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PE is good.

Achievement in PE

Achievement in PE is good.

- Pupils make good progress. By the time they leave at the end of Year 6, their attainment is above average. Pupils show a good understanding of how to apply their skills and can evaluate and adjust their performances effectively. Most pupils can swim the expected 25 metres. Analysis of the school's assessment information shows that there is no significant difference between the progress made by boys and girls or any other group of pupils. The school's records show that it works effectively with external agencies to ensure that pupils with disabilities and those with special educational needs are included in lessons as much as possible so that their needs are met.
- Pupils are eager to take part in all activities. They show good leadership skills, often displaying them through organising competitions and fulfilling

their other roles as playground super-leaders, sporting champions and Active 10 leaders. More able pupils have many opportunities to extend their skills through special coaching sessions organised by the local high school. Pupils who have barriers to overcome to achieve success are identified and encouraged to participate in after-school clubs such as 'Fun Ways to Fitness'.

Quality of teaching in PE

The quality of teaching in PE is good.

- You have engendered a passion for the subject which is communicated to the pupils through teachers and coaches. Although the quality of teaching is inconsistent, some is outstanding. In the outstanding lessons, pupils are fully engaged in physical activities to improve their skills and they work hard for sustained periods of time. However, in some lessons, activities are not vigorous enough or sustained for long enough to have a significant impact on improving pupils' skills, fitness and long-term health. No coaches were observed but the school's monitoring shows that they make a good contribution to pupils' learning.
- Although there is some use of information and communication technology (ICT) to promote learning in PE through illustrating key skills and techniques, and enabling pupils to evaluate their own performance and that of others, it is not well developed.

Quality of the curriculum in PE

The quality of the curriculum in PE is good.

- The curriculum is well balanced and designed to promote continuity and progression in learning. All pupils have a daily five-minute physical activity session and two hours of timetabled PE each week. Pupils' knowledge and understanding of a healthy and balanced diet are developed well through the school's Nutrition Action Group and topics such as 'Let's Get Cooking'. The school has recently started to use the school grounds to promote pupils' orienteering skills. Activities such as rock-climbing, abseiling and canoeing are provided through residential visits.
- The school's records show that the majority of pupils regularly attend the wide range of extra-curricular sports activities provided. By the time they leave the school at the end of Year 6, almost all pupils have represented the school in inter-school competitions. Over the past year, the school has increased the number of intra-school tournaments and has plans to develop them further.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PE

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PE is good.

- The contribution that you make to PE is outstanding and is central to the improving achievement and the strong personal development of all pupils. You are fully aware of the strengths and areas for improvement. Your

enthusiasm and commitment to improving all aspects of PE has helped to ensure that PE has a high profile in the school. Assessment information enables you to monitor effectively pupils' attainment and progress as they move through the school. However, the information is not used rigorously enough to monitor and evaluate the progress of different groups of pupils, such as gender and ability. With your guidance, the subject leaders are beginning to have a greater understanding of their role in monitoring and evaluating provision and outcomes for pupils.

- Strong links with local schools help to provide many inter-school competitions and ensure that pupils in Year 6 are well prepared to transfer to the secondary school. Resources are good. The school has taken full advantage of sports voucher schemes and wisely used finances raised by the parents and carers.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring that the subject leaders' monitoring and evaluation skills are fully developed
- using the assessment information more rigorously to monitor and evaluate the progress of different groups of pupils
- ensuring that pupils are provided with activities which are vigorous enough and sustained sufficiently to have a significant impact on improving their skills, fitness and long-term health
- increasing the number of opportunities for pupils to experience competitive intra-school tournaments
- making better use of ICT to illustrate key skills and techniques and to enable pupils to evaluate their own performance and that of others

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

Roy Bowers
Her Majesty's Inspector