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Mrs S Tibbatts
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Tibbatts

Ofsted 2011–12 subject survey inspection programme: personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE)

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils, during my visit on 27 March 2012 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; and observation of four lessons; an assembly; the children playing at break and lunchtimes; and their choice of healthy meals at lunchtime.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE is good.

Achievement in PSHE

Achievement in PSHE is good.

- Pupils have outstanding personal and social skills. They support each other and play very well together. They show respect for adults and other children in the school and learn how to say sorry when they are in the wrong. They are polite to visitors and confident to express their views.
- Their awareness of the impact of smoking and alcohol on their bodies is good. They recognise the dangers and know how to resist peer-pressure. Some have strong views on the subjects following independent research.
- Pupils develop good leadership skills through a range of formal and informal opportunities, such as playing with younger children, leading

singing sessions in assembly or representing their class in council meetings.

- Their knowledge of sex and relationship and drugs education is adequate although it has not fully taken account of the increased exposure in the media. As a result, some misconceptions develop.

Quality of teaching in PSHE

The quality of teaching in PSHE is good.

- Teachers work hard to plan lessons that use a wide range of resources. Teachers and pupils make good use of information and communication technology.
- Teachers encourage pupils to work collaboratively and share ideas. Independent research skills are also well developed.
- A good range of questioning skills is used to consolidate learning and probe for deeper understanding. However, in some instances the pace of learning slows when lessons are over-directed by the teacher.
- Assessment is regular and informs future planning. Individual pupils in need of additional support and extension receive additional focus.

Quality of the curriculum in PSHE

The quality of the curriculum in PSHE is good.

- An outstanding range of opportunities for adventurous and creative play at breaks and lunchtimes enhances the curriculum and ensures that all pupils enjoy playing together and develop social and risk-taking skills.
- Pupils are encouraged to take up the opportunity of frequent residential visits in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. These visits develop pupils' independence and confidence to look after themselves.
- Good opportunities are built into the curriculum for pupils to grow and harvest their own fruit and vegetables which pupils use to create healthy menus in the children's kitchen. These activities develop key life skills.
- Sex and relationships and drugs education is mapped across the school. However, key aspects of this curriculum are not introduced early enough and as the pupils get older not enough is done to challenge growing misconceptions from external sources.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE is good.

- The subject leader for PSHE is well qualified to lead and manage the subject. Frequent opportunities are planned to share expertise with the whole staff. However, monitoring and evaluation of the quality of PSHE teaching or support for individual staff are limited.

- The school responds well to new initiatives which continue to develop the PSHE curriculum and impact on pupil outcomes. For example, the 'Cook-It' courses involving parents and their children.
- Self-evaluation is accurate and a good range of parent, carer and pupil survey questionnaires informs future curriculum planning.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring that key aspects of sex and relationships and drugs education are addressed earlier in the scheme of work
- ensuring that the subject leader is provided with opportunities to monitor and support the quality of teaching.

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

Clive Kempton
Her Majesty's Inspector