

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



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Mr D O'Brien
Headteacher
Ripley CofE Primary School
Wentworth Close
Ripley
Woking
GU23 6ED

Dear Mr O'Brien

Ofsted 2012–13 subject survey inspection programme: enterprise education in primary schools

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 9 May 2012 to look at work in economics, business and enterprise.

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.

The overall effectiveness of enterprise education in promoting pupils' economic and business understanding and enterprise and financial capability is good.

Achievement in enterprise education

Achievement in enterprise education is good.

- Pupils have good enterprise skills and apply these successfully to make a very positive contribution to the school and local community. Pupils of all ages readily take on responsibilities through the School Council, Eco-Committee and various sub-groups, where they develop good project-management skills. They liaise with professionals, businesses and local council officials to improve the school environment, and have an acute sense of the need to carefully allocate resources within budgets to achieve their goals. They work with parents and staff in many enterprising sales

and other events, including regularly running a stall at the local farmers' market to raise target sums of money to fund specific projects.

- Across all years, pupils' financial capability is good. From an early age, children develop good coin recognition and most are confident in calculating with money and giving change. Their understanding of current economic events, and of international issues, such as trade and using other currencies, is less well-developed.
- Pupils work effectively together in teams and articulate views strongly on a range of school and local issues. Most understand why people work and have aspirations for future careers, but they are less clear about career pathways into job roles.

Quality of teaching in enterprise education

The quality of teaching in enterprise education is good.

- Teaching of financial capability is a strength throughout the school and underpins pupils' confidence in handling money. Older pupils engage in lively lessons, such as in the Years 5 and 6 space-travel project, to develop a good understanding of the functions and goals of businesses. Through such work they develop a good understanding of income, expenditure and profit. They have, for example, used spreadsheets to plan a party within a specific budget.
- Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted successfully through the frequent opportunities given to them to reflect and contribute their views on a range of local and global development issues. Information and communication technology is well used to help pupils research details that add depth to their work on these topics.
- Lessons seen in enterprise education were engaging and well managed. The pace of learning was generally fast, although it very occasionally dipped for some groups for whom more might have been asked.

Quality of the curriculum in enterprise education

The quality of the curriculum in enterprise education is good.

- The school motto 'Learning for Life' provides the guiding principle for a curriculum that offers an extensive range of projects to equip pupils with key employability skills. This is enhanced by many links with local organisations and professionals to develop projects and work directly with groups of pupils. The school is aware that while much enterprise activity occurs, a coherent framework is not yet in place to ensure the progressive development of pupils' enterprise skills and business or economic knowledge.
- Good opportunities are provided within a very creative curriculum for developing pupils' business awareness. Exercises for older pupils based on articles in a weekly pupil newspaper make a useful contribution to developing pupils' understanding of current affairs, although few

opportunities are offered to consider details of the current economic situation.

- Pupils learn about the jobs people do from many visitors to the school, including from the parents and carers who talk about their work in mothers' and fathers' day events. However, provision is limited in developing pupils' awareness of career pathways.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in enterprise education

The effectiveness of leadership and management in enterprise education is good.

- The school has a clear overarching vision for the importance of developing pupils' enterprise skills. Provision to equip pupils with skills, including enterprise skills, to promote their future economic wellbeing is enshrined in the school's aims and drives many aspects of the school's development.
- Self-evaluation of provision for enterprise is accurate. However the school lacks a mechanism for clearly tracking the development of pupils' enterprise skills and their business and economic understanding over time.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- developing a framework to guide the progressive development of pupils' economic understanding, enterprise skills and financial capability over time
- strengthening pupils' understanding of current economic events and international issues
- developing pupils' understanding of career pathways.

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

Ian Hodgkinson
Her Majesty's Inspector