

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 J Thompson  
Headteacher  
Blackwell Community Primary and  
Nursery School  
Primrose Hill  
Blackwell  
DE55 5JG

Dear Mrs Thompson

**Ofsted 2012–13 subject survey inspection programme: personal, social and health education (PSHE)**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 2 July 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; analysis of pupils' work; and observation of four lessons and one assembly.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE is good.

**Achievement in PSHE**

Achievement in PSHE is good.

- Pupils have a good understanding of how to lead a healthy lifestyle. They understand the importance of different food groups and a balanced diet. They are aware of the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco and can make a clear distinction between legal and illegal drugs.
- Pupils demonstrate a good knowledge of how to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations, such as being safe on the streets, and they can take steps to be safe while online. They understand key safety issues in their local area, such as the dangers of the near by quarry.
- Pupils have a good understanding of bullying and the different forms it may take. They are particularly vigilant about cyber-bullying. Older pupils

act as play-pals to support younger pupils in the playground and create a safer environment.

- Pupils' understanding of sex and relationships education is age-appropriate and lessons allow pupils to ask sensitive questions.
- A range of opportunities is available for pupils to practice budgeting, including working out the costs involved in making and selling a product. Pupils make well-considered suggestions to improve the school's outdoor facilities and subsequently raise funds to do this. They are less confident when talking about different jobs and careers.
- Pupils' personal and social development is good. Older pupils have opportunities to take on leadership activities such as mini-leaders and reading buddies. Pupils are able to express their ideas and show respect for others' feelings. However, some younger pupils do not always listen well.

### **Quality of teaching in PSHE**

The quality of teaching in PSHE is good.

- Very good relationships are established in lessons; teachers have high expectations and manage behaviour well so that all pupils enjoy and participate in learning.
- Lessons are well planned so pupils know what they are learning and can demonstrate at the end if they have been successful. A variety of high-quality resources captures pupils' interest and enjoyment so they become eager participants in the lesson.
- The development of group work is good. Pupils demonstrate independence and cooperation during lessons and share decision making.
- In a small minority of lessons too much teacher talk does not enable pupils to share and discuss their ideas. Often the teacher is giving the answers.
- Teaching assistants are used with varying success. In the best lessons, they are a key part of the lesson, enabling pupils in their learning with appropriate questions and support. In others their impact on pupils' learning is less successful.

### **Quality of the curriculum in PSHE**

The quality of the curriculum in PSHE is good.

- The PSHE curriculum provides pupils with a wide range of opportunities. It is broad and balanced. The curriculum includes discrete lessons, cross-curricular themes and local community development work. It provides good opportunities for enrichment so pupils can develop their learning, through residential experiences in Key stage 2 and the 'let's get cooking club'.
- Well-targeted support meets the needs of pupils whose circumstances make them potentially vulnerable. The range of support includes the nurture group, reading recovery programme and art therapy.

- A broad range of external visitors, including the fire brigade, police and talks on rail safety, enhances the PSHE curriculum.
- Pupils are provided with appropriate opportunities to develop an understanding of money management and budgets. However, this aspect of PSHE does not have a coherent overview or progression routes from year to year.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE is good.

- PSHE is well embedded through the school. Statutory requirements are met and all key policies are regularly updated.
- The subject is well resourced in terms of curriculum time and support. Monitoring and evaluation ensure that the subject continues to develop. A strong focus on revisiting aspects of the PSHE curriculum helps to improve delivery of issues such as drugs education. Aspects of sex and relationships education have undergone development this year to ensure a more comprehensive delivery.
- Good links exist with external agencies and parents and carers to develop and inform PSHE.
- Subject leadership inspires confidence from staff and pupils. Appropriate professional development has secured opportunities to develop PSHE within in the school. The school has an accurate picture of the strengths and areas for development of teaching in PSHE. However, the formal monitoring of the quality of teaching in the subject is sometimes insufficient.

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

- reviewing the PSHE curriculum to ensure that there is a coherent overview or map of economic well-being
- formally monitoring the quality of teaching in PSHE lessons.

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

**Davinder Dosanjh**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**