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Mrs L Partridge  
Headteacher  
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Derbyshire  
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Dear Mrs Partridge

**Ofsted 2012–13 subject survey inspection programme: physical education (PE)**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 5 July 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 three lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PE is satisfactory.

**Achievement in PE**

Achievement in PE is satisfactory.

- Pupils enter Year 3 with physical skills that are typical for pupils of that age. They make satisfactory progress throughout the school and, by the end of Year 6 their attainment is average. The school's monitoring information is not developed well enough to show any variation in achievement between different groups of pupils.
- The school's records show that in 2011 almost half of Year 6 pupils left the school unable to swim the recommended 25 metres. This was partly due to the temporary closure of the local swimming pool. In the current year, one quarter of the pupils have also not attained the expected standard in swimming. The school is aware that this proportion is too high and has plans to provide additional sessions where necessary.

- PE makes a strong contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Examples of this include pupils raising money to sponsor an Olympic athlete and discussing racism following the story of Jesse Owens. Pupils say that they enjoy PE and are especially enthusiastic about the work they undertook during the school's 'Olympic fortnight'.
- In the lessons observed, pupils behaved well, worked together effectively and provided support for each other. Pupils have a sound understanding of the contribution that PE makes to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, mainly because of the work undertaken in other subjects. For example, pupils in Year 6 have undertaken a 'healthy living' topic through which they monitored pulses and carried out breathing tests.

### **Quality of teaching in PE**

The quality of teaching in PE is satisfactory.

- Teachers show enthusiasm for PE which they communicate effectively to pupils. Relationships between teachers and pupils are strong and supportive, and help provide a positive climate for learning. Pupils say that teachers often use cameras and other technology to promote learning by illustrating key skills and techniques, and evaluating performance.
- Teachers plan lessons in detail, but they do not always focus sharply enough on improving pupils' skills and adding greater control to their movements. All lessons engage pupils in moderate physical activity. However, the activity is often not vigorous or sustained for long enough to have a significant impact on improving their fitness and long-term health. Support from teaching assistants and modification of activities in lessons help disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs take an active part in PE lessons. Although no coaches were observed during the inspection, the school reports that they are often used well to promote activities such as football, cricket and gymnastics.

### **Quality of the curriculum in PE**

The quality of the curriculum in PE is satisfactory.

- Activities cover all areas of the National Curriculum. All pupils have access to at least two hours of PE each week which includes two lessons of timetabled PE and a range of after-school clubs. A variety of published schemes is used by teachers as the basis for lesson planning. Swimming lessons are provided for pupils in Year 5. Leadership skills are promoted through opportunities for pupils to assess and advise upon each other's performance in lessons, and by older pupils acting as sports ambassadors, mini-leaders and playground pals.
- During their time at school, all pupils take part in intra-school tournaments and some compete in inter-school matches. The school has plans to ensure that all pupils experience more competition through extending the programme of intra-school sports activities.

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

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PE is satisfactory.

- The enthusiasm of the subject leader, you and other staff ensures that PE has a high profile in the school. Displays help raise pupils' awareness of the importance of PE in school. Strong links with local schools enable the subject leader to organise extra-curricular activities. She collates the end of year assessments, monitors the quality of sports coaching and provides advice to staff when required. However, no regular and systematic monitoring and evaluation of the quality of teaching take place. The current assessment system enables the subject leader to evaluate pupils' attainment at the end of each school year. However, the information is not used effectively enough to monitor the progress of different groups of pupils as they move through the school.
- In general, PE equipment is of a good standard. However, the school field is very small and restricts some activities. The school occasionally makes use of facilities at local schools.

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

- increasing the proportion of pupils who swim 25 metres by the end of Year 6 to at least 90%
- ensuring that in all lessons, activities focus sharply on helping pupils improve their skills and achieve greater control to their movement, and they are sufficiently active to improve their fitness and long-term health
- increasing the number of opportunities for pupils to participate in regular competitions and tournaments
- undertaking regular and systematic monitoring of the quality of teaching and the progress of different groups of pupils as they move through the school.

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**