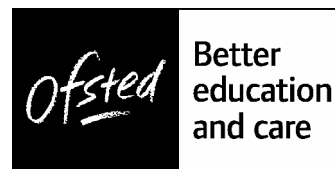


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11 December 2006

Mrs Jordan  
Headteacher  
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B48 7LN

Dear Mrs Jordan

Ofsted subject inspection programme – Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on Monday 27 November 2006 to look at work in PSHE.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our evaluation and reporting. Any published report is likely to list the names of the institutions visited, but we would not identify individual institutions within the report itself.

The evidence used to inform the judgements I made included: interviews with members of the senior management team, the chair of governors, the PSHE coordinator, SEN coordinator and other key staff, scrutiny of school documentation including schemes of work, analysis of pupils' work, and the observation of lessons.

I undertook to provide a brief written version of the main points made in my feedback at the end of the visit, to support development in PSHE. This follows:

The overall effectiveness of PSHE was judged to be good with some outstanding features.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards are good.

- Pupils are developing good levels of subject knowledge and understanding.

- Through PSHE and other subjects pupils are developing a good range of skills including the key one of communication. They are good listeners and confident speakers.
- They show considerable respect for the views of others.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning are good.

- The quality of lesson planning is good or better.
- Lesson plans identify the needs of all pupils and teachers make good use of teaching assistants to support individual pupils.
- Assessment practice is developing well.
- Pupils' work indicates good levels of subject knowledge and at its best assessment is extremely thorough. Pupils receive good feedback on the progress they are making with clear advice on how to improve further.

The quality of the curriculum for PSHE is good.

- Considerable progress has been made by the coordinator in programming the core aspects of the subject whilst still finding time for unusually thorough programming in relation to financial awareness and to careers and education guidance.
- An excellent start has been made to identifying the potential inputs by other subjects to some aspects of PSHE. In the best of lesson plans these cross-curricular links are identified and outcomes stated.
- The subject receives an appropriate allocation.

Pupils' care, guidance and support is at least good and in some aspects outstanding.

- Support for all pupils with special educational needs is outstanding. Links established by the coordinator with both the first and upper schools is ensuring that the excellent support provided in the school is part of a broader vision to meet the needs of the pupils.
- The quality of guidance provided by the coordinator to the class teachers is excellent. Their planning and their deployment of teaching assistants indicate the success of this advice.

Leadership and management are good.

- The PSHE coordinator has made excellent progress on developing the PSHE curriculum. Good quality advice is available to teachers on the overall programme supported by detailed lesson advice and resources.

- Monitoring and evaluation procedures are in place, but need further development including more regular checks on classroom practice.
- Statutory requirements are met.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- to identify and share the best practice in terms of lesson planning and delivery
- extend the monitoring evaluation of practice to more frequent observation of lessons.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop PSHE in the school.

As I explained, a copy of this letter will be sent to your Local Authority and will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Peter Griffiths  
Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools