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Mrs Carol Campbell
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Campbell

Ofsted subject inspection programme – Citizenship

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 26 and 27 September 2006 to look at work in Citizenship.

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. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half-term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with staff and pupils, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of lessons.

Citizenship

The overall effectiveness was judged to be good, with the school making rapid progress in subject development.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards in citizenship are good overall.

- Pupils demonstrated good knowledge of some aspects of the citizenship curriculum. Their knowledge and understanding of the electoral system and voting through their participation in the school council, year councils and elections for school officials and mock parliamentary elections are outstanding. Knowledge and understanding of other aspects of the citizenship curriculum, notably the media in

society, parliamentary government and the economy are less good especially at Key Stage 3.

- Pupils' skills in participating and taking responsible action are good.

Quality of teaching and learning

The quality of teaching and learning is good.

- Teaching was good; lessons were well planned with clearly defined citizenship objectives.
- Relationships between pupils and teachers are excellent. Pupils were fully engaged and had a positive attitude to citizenship.
- Active learning strategies allowed pupils to plan and evaluate their own learning.
- Procedures are not yet fully developed to enable teachers and pupils to assess subject knowledge and understanding, enquiry and communication and participation and responsible action and identify targets for improvement at Key Stage 3.

Quality of the curriculum

The quality of the curriculum is satisfactory.

- An extensive review and audit of the curriculum has been carried out and the school has recently introduced a programme to deliver citizenship through identified curriculum partners linked to distinctive elements within the active tutorial programme and citizenship activities outside the classroom. This has the capacity to provide a broad programme which is coherent and progressive with clear linkage between the three strands.

Leadership and management of citizenship

Leadership and management are very good.

- The school has moved forward rapidly on the basis of self-evaluation and an extensive review of the curriculum. There is a clear vision for citizenship supported by the senior leadership team. There is a detailed action plan which reflects a whole school approach to citizenship matched to the long term strategic development plan.

- The development of the subject is very well led by the co-ordinator and some training has been provided to show staff how they can teach citizenship effectively.

Inclusion

The lessons observed were inclusive and pupils enjoyed opportunities to participate in role-play, debate and discussion. They were very keen to offer their views during interviews and demonstrate their commitment to the school. They understand and are proud of the diverse school community and learn to balance their rights as individuals with their responsibilities as active citizens. The contribution of sixth form school officials to the personal development and well being of younger pupils is outstanding.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- to develop the assessment of citizenship
- to make the delivery of citizenship through curriculum partners explicit
- to ensure staff have access to citizenship training
- to monitor and evaluate standards and the quality of citizenship teaching.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Anne Wellham
Her Majesty's Inspector