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Mr Williamson  
Headteacher  
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Dear Mr Williamson

Ofsted Survey 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 30 November 2006 to look at work in PSHE. As outlined in my initial letter, my visit also looked at the schools approach to healthy eating.

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 and a parent Governor, the Family Advice and Liaison Worker the catering manager and the head boy and girl, scrutiny of school documentation, analysis of pupils' work, and observation of three lessons and an assembly.

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 satisfactory with some good features.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards are satisfactory.

- By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils can discuss and argue constructively about a range of issues.
- They are able to explore their own feelings and those of others.
- They show respect for the views of others paying particularly close attention to what others have to say.

Pupils' personal development and well-being are good.

- Pupils' awareness of the conditions for a healthy lifestyle is good or better.
- They exercise regularly and are enthusiastic participants in the wide range of well organised lunch time and after school activities.
- Pupils clearly enjoy school and feel safe.
- The breakfast club provided a significant number of pupils with an appropriate meal to start their day but also offered an enjoyable social experience for them and some of their parents.

The quality of provision

Teaching and learning are consistently good.

- The quality of lesson planning is very good.
- The teaching reflects good subject knowledge with approaches to the work that successfully engage the pupils.
- Some teachers are using work in PSHE as a way of developing pupils' key skills such as those of communication.
- Assessment practice is satisfactory.

The curriculum for PSHE is satisfactory with some good features.

- The school meets statutory requirements though the policy for drug education requires updating to take note of new advice.
- The scheme of work is well written.
- The provision is extremely well matched to the needs of the pupils.

Guidance and support is good.

- The staff know the pupils extremely well and provide good support when needed.
- The Family Advice and Liaison Worker provides excellent support for pupils and their families.
- The support and guidance for those pupils with special educational needs is very good.

Subject leadership and management are satisfactory.

- The school plan for raising attainment is extremely thorough but in relation to the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes has too many targets.
- Recent professional development for PSHE has had a positive impact on provision.
- Monitoring and evaluation procedures for PSHE are being developed.

Subject issue: healthy eating

The quality and range of meals provided by the school was good.

- The school food policy is well written and meets requirements.
- Pupils are encouraged to try new foods and there is very little waste.
- Pupils' awareness of the importance of a healthy diet is good.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- involving the teaching assistants in assessing pupils' contributions to discussions and group work
- updating the drug education policy
- to make the process more manageable, considering setting targets for one strand of ECM within the school plan for raising attainment.

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