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Mr R V Woodward  
Headteacher  
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Dear Mr Woodward

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Religious Education

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 16 January 2007 to look at work in religious education (RE).

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the subject, the visit had a particular focus on the implementation of the locally agreed syllabus.

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 two lessons.

The overall effectiveness of RE was judged to be outstanding.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards in RE are outstanding.

- Pupils make very good progress as they move through the school. By the end of Year 2 and Year 6 standards are well above average. Pupils in Year 6 have exceptionally good analytical skills for their age. Their written explanations are detailed. Their depth of knowledge and understanding of the world religions they have studied is impressive.

- Pupils have an outstanding attitude to learning. Their behaviour in lessons is excellent. Creative teaching with space for reflection promotes pupils' spiritual development very well. In addition the subject raises pupils' awareness of cultural diversity as they learn to respect the beliefs held by the followers of the religions they study.

### Quality of teaching and learning

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding.

- A wide range of teaching methods is used very effectively to make learning relevant. Sensory activities promote pupils' spiritual development. Pupils are challenged to think critically about the religions they study. Excellent subject knowledge coupled with effective questioning enables pupils to deepen their understanding of Christianity and the other world religions they study.
- Pupils work is marked with helpful comments which enable them to improve their work.

### Quality of curriculum

The quality of the curriculum is outstanding.

- An innovative and creative approach to curriculum planning promotes excellence and enjoyment in learning. It ensures high achievement for all pupils. 'Circle Time' is skilfully planned to support the RE programme and makes a very valuable contribution to the development of pupils' spiritual development. There is an excellent balance of work across the two attainment targets. Visitors and visits are used very effectively to enrich the RE curriculum.
- Assessment is very good. Pupils work is accurately levelled. There is a robust and effective system in place for tracking pupil progress in the subject.

### Leadership and management

The leadership and management of RE are outstanding.

- The subject co-ordinator provides a clear vision and direction for the development of RE. She ensures it has a high profile in the school. Self-evaluation is excellent. Planning to develop and improve the subject is outstanding. Systems for monitoring are robust and support improvement.

### Implementation of the Agreed Syllabus

The school has very successfully implemented the new agreed syllabus. Changes required have been shared with all staff. Modifications to schemes of work have ensured that the requirements of the new syllabus are fully met.

The school has received excellent external support from the local authority with the implementation of the new syllabus.

### Inclusion

Inclusion is a very significant strength in this school. Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are provided with targeted support in RE and achieve well. The subject makes a valuable contribution to developing the speaking and listening skills of pupils who struggle with literacy. Through this subject they make rapid gains in confidence as speakers. The school, through its own evaluation, has identified that more must be done in the subject to provide for gifted and talented pupils.

No areas for improvement have been identified from the review of this subject.

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

Yours sincerely

Jeffery Plumb  
Additional Inspector