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Mr P Hicks
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Hicks

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 26 February 2007 to look at your work in relation to 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: discussions with you and your deputy, the subject manager and members of the teaching staff, scrutiny of school documentation, analysis of pupils' work, and observations 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 is good with some aspects that are outstanding.

Achievement and standards are good.

- The pupils' knowledge and understanding of aspects of PSHE are good. They are developing a range of skills that enable them to explore feelings, attitudes and values.
- They are able to put forward their point of view and show respect for the views of others.

Pupils' personal development and well-being are good with some aspects that are outstanding.

- Their awareness of the conditions for a healthy lifestyle is excellent. They are able to apply this knowledge in their selection of snacks and when choosing meals at lunch time.
- Pupils feel safe at school. They enjoy their work and relationships are excellent.
- Pupils are encouraged to help in the development of the school. Extensive use is made of e-mail to gather pupils' ideas.
- Pupils are making very good progress in developing their basic skills. The school has been very effective in ensuring that these skills are linked to real life experiences and practical applications.

The quality of teaching and learning are good.

- The quality of lesson planning is good: lessons set high but appropriate expectations of the pupils.
- Teachers have good subject knowledge with approaches to the work that successfully engaged all pupils.
- The school is using a variety of methods to record pupils' progress in PSHE.

The quality of planning for PSHE is outstanding.

- The school has very successfully identified the most effective methods to be used to develop the key aspects of the programme.
- The combination of approaches to teaching PSHE through work in other subjects and through inputs by the nurse is working well.
- The quality of planning for PSHE and for the schools' bid for healthy schools status is excellent.

Guidance and support within the school is good.

- The school has excellent links with parents and the community.
- The school responds well to the needs of individual pupils so that they can continue to enjoy school and successfully engage in learning.

Subject leadership and management are good.

- Statutory requirements are met.
- The subject manager has made good progress in determining the quality of the provision for PSHE.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- considering how electronic communications can be further used to gather pupils' views on proposed school developments
- considering the Every Child Matters section headings as the framework for the PSHE annual health check.

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