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Ms A Pickin
Headteacher
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Sheffield
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Dear Ms Pickin

Ofsted Subject Inspection Programme 2006/7 – PSHE

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 20 March 2007 to look at work in PSHE.

As outlined in my initial letter, the focus of my visit was on the following aspect(s): healthy eating and assessment.

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 yourself, the PSHE co-ordinator and SENCo, parents, governors and pupils, scrutiny of school documentation including extracts from the SEF, observation of four lessons, early morning routines in the Reception class, the multi-heritage workshop, the multi-cultural dance group and the theatre club.

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.

Pupils have a good knowledge and understanding of aspects of PSHE.

- Pupils have an age appropriate understanding of sexual health risks, and the dangers of smoking and substance abuse.
- Pupils have a good understanding of how to live a healthy lifestyle.
- Pupils also have a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

The personal development and well being of pupils are good.

- Opportunities for pupils to participate in a wide range of activities are extensive. As exemplified by the theatre club, these activities are very well attended by pupils of all ages.
- Pupils enjoy the PSHE related activities. The younger pupils certainly throw themselves into their singing!
- Pupils enjoy the nutritious food served to them at lunch, as well as the healthy snacks. They value the opportunities for 'family dining'.
- The class and school councils have a real impact on the life and work of the school.

The quality of teaching and learning was good.

- Lessons are well planned and managed.
- Teachers take opportunities to develop pupils' social skills, and this underpins the school's Catholic ethos.
- Teachers address very well the social and emotional aspects of learning.

The quality of the PSHE curriculum is outstanding.

- Provision is comprehensive and is based on the needs of pupils.
- The curriculum explicitly sets out to support pupils' emotional well being, and does so well.
- Each year all pupils benefit from focussed work on 'growing up' as well as the ongoing emphasis on 'relationships'.
- The curriculum is greatly enhanced by workshops that very well develop pupils' awareness of cultures other than their own.

The care, support and guidance for all pupils are outstanding.

- Very good links are established within the local community.
- Pupils' transition to secondary education is well managed.
- Parents and carers are very well supported, and they benefit from many opportunities to be involved in their children's education.
- The school community is rightly proud of its improving environment, including the many developments outside.

Subject leadership and management are good.

- Governors are very active in promoting provision.
- Managers identify well opportunities to promote all aspects of PSHE
- Resources are well targeted.

Subject issues

- Provision for healthy eating is good.
- Assessment of pupils' progress is satisfactory, and improving.

This is an inclusive school.

- Staff have a good understanding about how to meet the needs of all pupils.
- School managers give high priority to the subject's development.
- Parents and carers are well involved in developing provision.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- systematically evaluating the impact of provision in PSHE
- achieving 'Eco Schools' status.

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

Henry Moreton
Additional Inspector

