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Mr Norman Jones
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Jones

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Religious Education (RE)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 2 October 2007 to look at work in 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 way the subject contributes to the promotion of community cohesion.

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 three lessons.

The overall effectiveness of RE was judged to be satisfactory.

Achievement and standards

Pupils' achievement in RE is satisfactory.

- Overall, pupils make broadly satisfactory progress to reach the standards expected for their age. By the end of Year 6, pupils describe the key beliefs and teachings of the religions they have studied. However, pupils' ability to describe similarities and differences both within and between religions is underdeveloped.

- The contribution of RE to pupils' personal development is good. Pupils are very aware of the importance of appreciating religious and cultural diversity in contemporary Britain. They show respect for diversity and are able to talk confidently about their own sense of belonging to their local and wider community.
- Pupils behave well in lessons and they have very positive attitudes to RE.

Quality of teaching and learning of RE

The quality of teaching and learning in RE is satisfactory.

- Lessons are planned well and take account of medium term planning.
- Teachers form good relationships with pupils that help to engage their interests and enthusiasm.
- Assessment procedures are underdeveloped and the school recognises this as a priority for improvement.

Quality of the curriculum

The quality of the curriculum in RE is satisfactory.

- The school is in the process of implementing a redesigned curriculum, including for RE. Medium term plans are formulated jointly by teachers and take account of the Leicestershire locally agreed syllabus. The school recognises the need to evaluate planning carefully to ensure continuity in pupils' learning experiences, breadth of coverage, and sufficient time allocation for the subject.
- From discussions with pupils, it is clearly evident that they enjoy learning in RE, particularly when the learning requires them to use their creative skills.
- Planned opportunities for pupils to think about what they are learning in RE, and to make their own responses, are not provided routinely.

Leadership and management of RE

The leadership and management of RE are satisfactory.

- The school has benefited from its collaborative work with a local family of primary schools to improve provision.
- The impact of teaching and learning is discussed jointly by staff in this small school and areas for further improvement are identified accurately.

The promotion of community cohesion

RE makes a positive contribution to the promotion of community cohesion. A policy has been formulated which clearly draws together those aspects which

the school promotes, including links with local communities, for example the good links with local churches.

Inclusion

The provision for inclusion is good. All pupils are encouraged to participate in lessons and pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities make progress at a similar rate to their peers.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- developing assessment procedures so that pupils' progress is tracked robustly and improves pupils' progress
- providing more planned opportunities for pupils to express what they have learned from the religions that they have studied.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop RE in the school.

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

Yours sincerely

Dilip Kadodwala
Her Majesty's Inspector