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Mr Finn
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Finn

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on Wednesday 02 October 2007 to look at work in PSHE.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the subject, the visit had a particular focus on:

- how the PSHE curriculum meets the specific needs of pupils in your local area, and how progress is tracked and assessed; and
- the contribution made by PSHE to the future economic well-being of your pupils.

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: a tour of the school with some pupils, interviews with governors, staff and some of the school council, scrutiny of relevant documentation, observation of three lessons and taking 'posh nosh' with a group of pupils.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE was judged to be good.

Achievement and standards

Achievement in PSHE is good.

- Pupils achieve well and make good progress in their personal development.
- Pupils' behaviour is excellent and their attendance is good.

- Pupils get off to a flying start in the reception classes.
- Pupils value each other and enjoy their learning.
- Pupils listen well and present their views assuredly.

Quality of teaching and learning of PSHE

The quality of PSHE teaching is good.

- The content of lessons is directly relevant to pupils' needs.
- Activities are planned to match pupils' learning styles.
- Pupils' emotional well being is given a high profile.
- The assessment of pupils' progress is accurate.
- The support and guidance provided to pupils is good.

Quality of the curriculum

The curriculum is good.

- The curriculum is reviewed to meet the specific needs of pupils.
- Pupils have good opportunities to pursue their individual interests.
- There is an extensive range of activities supporting pupils' personal development, including an annual health 'conference'.
- The school has gained the Healthy School Award.
- Pupils involve themselves in many charitable works.
- Lunchtimes are convivial occasions.
- Transition arrangements are generally good but there is little liaison over the PSHE curriculum.

Leadership and management of PSHE

The leadership and management of PSHE are good.

- The school's evaluation of its overall provision in PSHE is accurate.
- There is no systematic review of the many initiatives.
- The senior managers set the tone for all the staff in placing high importance on pupils' personal development and well being.
- Governors are closely involved in developments in PSHE, and take an active interest in organising events.
- Action planning for PSHE is well considered.

Subject issue; how well are pupils prepared for future economic well-being?

Pupils are well prepared for adult life.

- Older pupils have good awareness of their place in the community.
- They understand the principles of good citizenship.
- Pupils of all ages and abilities relish the many opportunities provided for them to take responsibility including running the healthy tuck shop and in the appointment of staff.

Inclusion

Inclusion is good.

- Pupils of all abilities are fully included in the school's extra curricular activities.
- The school's comprehensive system of rewards and sanctions successfully promotes self awareness in all pupils.
- Pupils with learning difficulties are well supported.
- The school promotes community cohesion by involving parents in activities with their children.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- systematically evaluate the impact of the many PSHE related activities
- establish closer links with the local high schools on the PSHE curriculum.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Henry Moreton
Additional Inspector