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Mrs Annie Craggs
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Craggs

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 16 October to look at work in PSHE.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of PSHE, 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: interviews with staff and pupils, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE was judged to be good with some outstanding features.

Achievement and standards in PSHE

Achievement in PSHE was good.

- Pupils enjoy their work and have very positive attitudes towards PSHE.
- Pupils make good progress in developing their subject knowledge and understanding.
- Pupils in Years 5 and 6 are able to talk about their understanding of issues such as healthy lifestyles and the needs of different groups of people such as young children and the elderly.
- They are confident when expressing their feelings and value the views of others.

Quality of teaching and learning of PSHE

The quality of PSHE teaching is outstanding.

- Teachers' subject knowledge is excellent as is the quality of their lesson planning. They employ an excellent range of approaches to teaching ensuring that the needs of the pupils are well met.
- Teachers' sharing of good practice is exceptional.
- Assessment practice is good. It is linked to the curriculum plan with clearly identified learning outcomes for each key stage.
- Peer assessment is used very successfully in some lessons.
- Reports to parents include detailed and very helpful feedback on pupils' progress in PSHE. The pupils value the opportunity they are given to comment on their report.

Quality of the curriculum

The quality of the curriculum is outstanding.

- The well planned PSHE curriculum is based upon the identified needs of the pupils.
- The high quality of the planning, under your leadership as the subject coordinator, has ensured that PSHE is very successfully taught through other subjects.
- The school has achieved healthy schools status and this has influenced the planning of PSHE.

Care, guidance and support

Care and guidance of the pupils is outstanding.

- Health and safety and child protection procedures are in place.
- A minority of parents place children at risk by parking within the prohibited area outside the school.

Leadership and management of PSHE

The leadership and management of PSHE are good with some outstanding aspects.

- Monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning and planning are excellent. You undertake regular lesson observations making judgements that are both detailed and accurate.
- Teachers regularly discuss teaching and learning and planning so that practice is continually improving.
- The PSHE curriculum and its associated policies meet statutory requirements in relation to drug use and misuse and to sex and relationships education.

Subject issue: How well are pupils prepared for future economic well-being?

Provision for economic well-being is outstanding.

- The school gives pupils many opportunities to take on responsibilities such as buddies, play helpers and membership of the school councils. They readily accept such roles and discharge them most effectively.
- Not only are pupils able to manage their own learning, they also work extremely well together whether with pupils of their own or different ages.
- Pupils' social and communication skills are excellent.

Inclusion

This is an inclusive school.

- The school's mission statement embraces inclusion.
- Teachers have a good knowledge of how well pupils are progressing in PSHE.
- The school has very effective strategies for promoting good relationships and managing behaviour.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- making further use of peer assessment
- undertaking further work with parents, and external agencies if necessary, to ensure safer parking outside the school.

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

Peter Griffiths
Additional Inspector