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Mr S. Kirby  
Acting Headteacher  
Selwood Anglican/Methodist Middle School  
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Dear Mr Kirby

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Economic well being and financial capability

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 9 October 2007 to look at steps being taken to develop pupils' economic well being and financial capability in your school.

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 students; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of students' work and observation of four lessons.

The overall effectiveness of the school's work to develop pupils' economic well being is good and its work to develop pupils' financial capability is satisfactory.

#### Achievement and standards

Given their starting point, pupils are making good progress towards economic well being and their progress in developing financial capability is satisfactory.

- By the end of Key Stage 2, most pupils have a good knowledge and understanding of their role as citizens, working in teams, poverty, charity work and the merits of saving money for the future.
- By the end of Year 8, most pupils have extended their knowledge and understanding to include budgeting, making decisions as a discerning

consumer, the role and funding of national and local government and how to manage foreign currencies.

- Pupils have a good level of information and communication technology (ICT) skills and use these effectively in presenting their work.
- Weaknesses in writing, particularly amongst boys, limit the progress some pupils make in developing effective communication.
- Weak numerical skills and difficulties in sequencing tasks appropriately are impeding the progress of some pupils in developing financial capability.

### Quality of teaching and learning

Teaching and learning to develop pupils' economic well being and financial capability are satisfactory.

- Teaching in all the lessons observed was at least satisfactory.
- Lessons are well planned and good opportunities are provided to encourage pupils to collaborate and to develop independent learning skills; however, pace varies between lessons and the requirements of tasks are not consistently made clear to pupils.
- In most lessons pupils are challenged to refine their answers and suggestions; this contributes effectively to pupils' good progress.
- Pupils' behaviour is mostly good and relations between staff and pupils are generally very good.
- Assessment practice is improving; marking is helpful and thorough and there is a focus on pupils' progress in relation to their targets.

### Quality of curriculum

The quality of the curriculum to promote pupils' economic well being and financial capability is good.

- Economic well being is promoted effectively through citizenship education. Recently improved schemes of work in citizenship have extended the coverage of aspects of economic well being.
- The 'Green Group' initiative effectively promotes individual responsibility and teamwork. Pupils respond well to opportunities to show initiative in tackling environmental and community issues.
- Learners have few opportunities to develop enterprise skills. However, pupils respond well in supporting charities, including playing a significant role in deciding how the funds they raise should be used.
- English, mathematics, technology, geography and ICT are contributing positively to promoting pupils' economic well being.
- Citizenship and science provide good opportunities for pupils to debate ethical issues linked to economic development.

## Leadership and management

Leadership and management of the school's work to develop pupils' economic well being and financial capability are satisfactory.

- Management of the citizenship curriculum has recently improved and planning and co-ordination are now much better; assessment and review mechanisms are being developed.
- The school has conducted an audit of work-related learning. However, opportunities for pupils to develop their economic well being and financial capability are not explicitly identified in subject schemes of work.
- The particular skills and competences which pupils are expected to acquire in developing economic well being and financial capability, as they move through the school, are not currently specified and there is no system in place for tracking and reporting the outcomes they achieve individually.
- Teachers have some good opportunities to plan together.
- Links with local businesses are encouraged, but are underdeveloped; pupils have few opportunities to meet with employers.

## Inclusion

Inclusion is good.

- Good support is provided for pupils with learning difficulties; there is a strong focus on improving basic skills and behaviour and raising self-esteem.
- The Nurture Unit provides effective support for the most vulnerable pupils and signage around the school promotes the notion of a shared workplace.
- All pupils have access to activities designed to promote economic well being and financial capability.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- improving opportunities for pupils to develop and demonstrate their enterprise capability
- making references to opportunities to develop economic well being in subject schemes of work
- identifying the knowledge, skills and other attributes which pupils should acquire in developing economic well being and financial capability as they move through the school.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop business education in your 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 Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Vic Chivers  
Her Majesty's Inspector