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Mrs P Cotton
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Cotton

Ofsted 2007-08 subject survey inspection programme: citizenship

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 17 March 2008 to look at work in citizenship, accompanied by Judith Matharu HMI.

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 one lesson, an assembly and a school council meeting.

The overall effectiveness of citizenship was judged to be good.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards are good.

- Pupils interviewed were able to talk about a wide range of citizenship issues and showed good knowledge and understanding.
- Pupils' written work is of good standard, developing literacy skills while exploring aspects of citizenship. They have considered issues that affect them, their community and the wider world.
- Pupils discussed work they had done on the media and politics.
- Pupils on the school council have a strong representative role and played a good part in decision making on issues of concern to them.

Quality of teaching and learning of citizenship

Insufficient teaching was observed to make an overall judgement.

- Pupils' work shows that teachers take a good range of approaches to citizenship.
- In one lesson, good questioning drew from younger pupils their ideas about caring for their planet; and the purpose of the author in writing a book about this.
- The school council is very well supported by a deputy headteacher who guides discussion and provides information where necessary, while encouraging pupils to offer their views and make decisions.

Quality of the curriculum

The curriculum is good overall.

- The citizenship curriculum draws upon various aspects of the school's work including PSHCE, cross curricular inputs, assemblies, focused activities on suspended timetable days, whole school activities such as recycling, the 'Fair Trade' fortnight, and work in the community including charitable activities.
- The non-statutory guidance for the citizenship elements within PSHCE has been used as a basis for planning for each year group. Additionally the school has planned for related approaches such as SEAL using a 'layered' approach.
- The school council forms an important part of the citizenship curriculum. It provides all pupils with a model of representative democracy and pupils are positive about its work and status. The conditions of school council membership are supported by pupils.

Leadership and management of citizenship

The leadership and management of citizenship are good.

- Citizenship is important to the school. This is demonstrated in the link between pupils on the school council and school governors.
- The school is alert to initiatives and keen to develop the curriculum to meet pupils' needs. New programmes have been incorporated and training opportunities have been found for the coordinator.
- The school council is very well led and carries authority in the school.
- Despite these strengths, planning for citizenship is rather fragmented and could be more integrated to support teachers in their planning.

Subject issue: teaching and learning about Britain's diversity

- Pupils interviewed demonstrated very good knowledge and understanding of Britain's diversity.
- Scrutiny of work showed that pupils have taken part in a survey on identity and diversity, drawing conclusions from it.

- The school has benefited from support from the Local Authority on multicultural education and this has had positive effects in terms of classroom materials and approaches.
- The school celebrates its diversity, as demonstrated in work around the school and the school play.

Inclusion

- Available evidence suggested that all groups of pupils are involved in citizenship learning.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- to consolidate the documentation on core citizenship provision within PSHE so to underpin planning and progression in citizenship
- to continue to develop current plans for assessment to embrace work in citizenship
- to monitor teaching and learning in order to better evaluate quality of provision.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop citizenship 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 school inspection.

Yours sincerely

Scott Harrison
Her Majesty's Inspector