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Mrs Noelstorr
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Noelstorr

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 Monday 16 June 2008 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 you, the deputy headteacher with responsibility for PSHE and the healthy school's co-ordinator, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work, discussion with two groups of Year 6 pupils, and observation of three lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE was judged to be outstanding.

Achievement and standards

Achievement in PSHE is outstanding.

- Pupils have highly developed personal and social skills. They respect one another, recognise each others' qualities and support each other well.
- They are confident that their actions can make a difference both within the school community and globally.
- Knowledge of sex and drugs education is good.
- Pupils have a secure knowledge of how to stay healthy through diet, exercise and personal hygiene.
- Pupils debate and discuss issues frequently. They present their views eloquently and listen well to the views of others.

Quality of teaching and learning of PSHE

The quality of teaching and learning is good.

- Teaching is well planned and organised with a good range of activities such as role play, use of information communication technology (ICT), discussion and debate.
- Relationships, attitudes and behaviour in PSHE lessons are positive and pupils enjoy the range of different activities.
- There was insufficient clarity in the specific learning objectives in PSHE lessons observed, although work in books and discussions with pupils demonstrates clear learning.
- Assessment is good and improving quickly. Pupils evaluate how much they are learning in an open and honest way in the regular self-assessment booklet, which is sent home to parents.

Quality of the curriculum

The quality of the PSHE curriculum is outstanding.

- The PSHE curriculum is very broad and permeates all areas of the school.
- High quality opportunities are provided within the curriculum, such as three residential visits to different locations in Year 4, 5 and 6, and a strong focus on global issues, highly pertinent to life in the twenty first century.
- The scheme of work does not reflect the wide range of PSHE opportunities provided across the school.
- The curriculum is creative and imaginative and responsive to local and national issues. It meets the needs of all pupils well.

Leadership and management of PSHE

The leadership and management of PSHE are outstanding.

- The leadership of PSHE is enthusiastic and committed to providing a rich and purposeful curriculum.
- Opportunities for professional development in PSHE are extensive for both teaching and non-teaching staff.
- There is a wide range of PSHE resources that is well used by staff.
- Teachers are well supported and their work is effectively monitored by the subject leader.
- The subject leader constantly reviews and updates resources, identifies issues for action and implements change.
- The schools' self-evaluation of its provision is accurate.

Subject issue: the contribution made by PSHE to the future economic well-being of pupils.

Pupils are very well prepared to take their place in society. The school prepares them well to become responsible adults. Pupils increasingly understand the role they can play in making a difference to local and national issues. Their confidence, self-esteem, increasing financial awareness and involvement in enterprise activities holds them in good stead for their future lives.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- ensuring that learning objectives in all lessons are sharp and measurable
- refining the overall PSHE curriculum to ensure the rich variety of opportunities the school provides are systematically mapped.

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

Clive Kempton
Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools