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Mr J E Nicholson
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Nicholson

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 20 June 2008 to look at work in citizenship.

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 learners, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of four lessons.

The overall effectiveness of citizenship was judged to be outstanding.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards are outstanding.

- Standards are above average in citizenship-related work and pupils make excellent progress.
- Pupils are developing an excellent understanding of some of the key issues affecting the world today. Their work on sustainability, pollution and the importance of democracy is outstanding.
- Pupils' personal development is outstanding. The pupils are articulate, interested, concerned and eager to make a contribution to the wider world.
- The impressive School Council can describe all their activities and the impact they have had on the school. They were an important part of the interviewing panel for the recently appointed deputy head and will be included in the next staff interviews.

- Pupils use information communication technology (ICT) very effectively and are well able to use the internet for research and computers, and digital cameras to enhance the presentation of their work.
- Pupils have an awareness of and concern for people in other parts of the United Kingdom, Europe and the world. Their recent work on Africa shows a sensitive awareness of other lifestyles and challenges.

Quality of teaching and learning

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding.

- Teachers plan lessons which are challenging, exciting and innovative so that all pupils are engrossed in their learning.
- Lessons include many practical activities which enrich the experience of pupils and embed the lessons learned firmly in their heads. For example, as part of a lesson on the pollution in the sea, pupils in Year 2 were experimenting with a tank of water to see what happens to different kinds of rubbish which people discarded at the seaside and on the beach. Other groups were creating a model beach to observe the damage caused by pollution.
- Relationships are excellent. All adults and children in school treat each other with friendship and respect.
- The range of activities included in lessons is wide and helps pupils to shine in unexpected ways. Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities receive excellent support. Work is planned so that every pupil can achieve well.
- Assessment is good. Pupils receive good feedback on how well they are doing in citizenship and how they can improve.
- Teachers plan lessons which give pupils time to discuss, debate and reflect on what they have learned. Writing is not neglected and some of the pieces of extended writing produced by pupils, often illustrated with their own digital photographs, is impressive.

Quality of the curriculum

The curriculum is outstanding.

- The inviting learning environment, very good quality resources, and the highly effectiveness maintenance reflects the shared sense of pride among all adults in school. Teachers use technology particularly effectively to enhance learning.
- Citizenship transcends subject boundaries and is evident in much of the work that pupils produce from early years upwards.
- The emphasis on pollution and sustainability prepares children well for understanding the importance of these subjects for the future.
- Through the Linx project pupils have regular contact with children in Africa, exchanging news and descriptions of their daily lives.
- Themed days such as Africa week, India day, Chinese day, Altogether Active week and grandparents day (linked with a history project) help to bring the world into the classroom.
- A recent disability awareness day developed the pupils' understanding of some of the pre-conceptions about disability.

- The creation of the school's flower and vegetable gardens has enhanced the curriculum in numerous ways. The garden was so successful that the school was included in the local 'open gardens scheme' organised by the community to raise funds for cancer charities.

Leadership and management

The leadership and management of citizenship are outstanding.

- The school seeks every opportunity to develop its role as the heart of the community. There are numerous links with local families, businesses, teenagers and others to enable the pupils to be an important part of the local community.
- National and international links raise the awareness of pupils of what is happening in the wider world and prepare them to play a part as citizens of the world.
- All the staff embrace the philosophy which underpins citizenship and the school has skilfully blended its focus on the Every Child Matters agenda with its development of citizenship.
- Effective support for the recently qualified subject leader is giving her the confidence to develop her expertise and take this successful area of the school forward.
- Parents are kept well informed about their children's progress and often invited into school to see for themselves how well their children are developing as young citizens.

I identified no significant areas for improvement.

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 institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Judith Straw
Additional Inspector