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Mrs S Walters  
Headteacher  
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Dear Mrs Walters

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 22 May 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 five lessons.

The overall effectiveness of citizenship was judged to be outstanding.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards are outstanding.

- Pupils are articulate, well-mannered and interested in the world around them. The outstanding curriculum encourages them to look beyond the mundane to the wider world; to research what is happening in the world and to make up their own minds about how to react, what to think and do.
- In lessons pupils take part in discussion and debates and can express themselves extremely well, knowing how to listen to others as well as how to offer their own views.
- Pupils use the internet extremely well for research and present their findings in imaginative and creative ways.

- Pupils work together very effectively in various groups. Older pupils support younger ones in many different ways such as by acting as playground buddies or ICT buddies.
- Members of the democratically elected and hard-working school council can clearly describe the impact of their work this year. Pupil voice is heard loud and clear.
- Pupils take part in many fund-raising activities and have a good knowledge of the work and activities of a wide range of charities.

### Quality of teaching and learning of citizenship

The quality of teaching and learning is outstanding.

- Teachers make learning challenging and exciting and engender in their pupils a love of learning and inspire them to be curious about the world.
- The very effective use of information and communication technology enhances both teaching and learning. The school is currently developing a virtual learning platform which will build on current success.
- Excellent relationships across the school combined with a culture of praise and celebration of success ensures that pupils are confident, happy and successful.
- The school is totally committed to ensuring that every pupil has the same range of opportunities to achieve the best that they can. Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities receive excellent support. Work is planned to ensure that every pupil is challenged and stretched.
- Assessment is good. Pupils regularly self-assess and discuss their learning with teachers.

### Quality of the curriculum

The curriculum is outstanding.

- The school has developed a stimulating, exciting and challenging curriculum based on key skills and exploiting as wide a range of cross-curricular links as possible.
- The promotion of pupils' personal development and their spiritual, physical and emotional well-being is at the heart of all the school's work.
- The curriculum incorporates citizenship aims and objectives into every planned activity.
- The curriculum is designed to encourage pupils to look out to the wider world.
- The magnificent displays of pupils' work in classrooms and communal areas are a splendid celebration of their enjoyment of learning.
- The school promotes local, national and international links wherever possible

### Leadership and management of citizenship

The leadership and management of citizenship are outstanding.

- The well-being of every person is at the heart of the school's philosophy. Every person, as well as every child, matters.

- Subject reviews in the last two years identified aspects of citizenship which could be improved and the school has acted quickly to securely embed good practice and further develop personal, social, health and citizenship education so that it is at the heart of the learning community.
- The curriculum area is expertly led and managed. Strong and accurate self-assessment ensures that the school knows its strengths and areas where improvement can be made. Regular and frequent monitoring ensures there is consistency of delivery across the school.
- Parents are kept informed about their children's progress and activities in citizenship and are welcomed into school at every opportunity.
- Governors are very involved in the school and one governor is currently over-seeing citizenship aspects of the school development plan.
- The school take every opportunity to develop pupils' understanding about the diverse range of people who live in Britain today. The inclusion policy ensures that pupils in this mainly white British school understand and learn about people from a variety of other cultures. Through the religious studies curriculum pupils have the opportunity to learn about other faiths and traditions. People from many different backgrounds are invited into school whenever possible to meet the pupils and further develop their understanding of multi-cultural Britain.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- exploit every opportunity to link citizenship themes with current events.

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