

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404040
F 020 7421 6855
www.ofsted.gov.uk
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk



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Mr S Smith
Headteacher
Nessfield Primary School
Nessfield Drive
Keighley
West Yorkshire
BD22 6NP

Dear Mr Smith

Ofsted survey inspection programme – E-safety

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 9 June 2009 to look at work in e-safety.

As outlined in my initial letter, this visit looked at:

- the extent to which schools teach learners to adopt safe and responsible practices in using new technologies
- e-safety training for staff.

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 and an analysis of pupils' work.

The overall effectiveness of e-safety was judged to be satisfactory.

Outcomes for learners

Outcomes for pupils are satisfactory.

- Pupils are kept safe while using new technologies in school due to the filtering systems in place and because pupils adopt safe practices.
- There have been a small number of e-safety incidents over the past year, the majority of which were connected with cyberbullying. These incidents were managed effectively but the issues raised were not always fully incorporated into teaching.
- Pupils have a basic knowledge and understanding of what they need to do to do to keep safe whilst using new technologies which they have

learned from school and from home. Many, but not all students, apply this knowledge and understanding outside of school.

- Older pupils are not aware of some of the more detailed issues which may affect them while they are using new technologies.

Quality of provision

The quality of provision is satisfactory.

- The curriculum provided enables pupils to learn the basics about staying safe when using new technologies. However, the curriculum is limited because important safety issues have not been thoroughly planned for.
- An overview of where safety using new technologies is taught is beginning to emerge and it is not yet embedded into teaching.
- The knowledge and understanding of pupils in each year are not fully understood and so the learning experiences are only beginning to match the needs of each year group.
- Provision for pupils who join the school other than at the beginning of the school year is inconsistent because teaching of the issues is not fully woven into topics throughout the terms and the important safety issues are taught at the beginning of each year.
- Whilst pupils do demonstrate an understanding of cyberbullying and other issues surrounding email, much of this is recent and is limited because pupils do not have much first hand experience of using email.

Leadership and management

The leadership and management of e-safety are satisfactory.

- There are up to date policies covering all aspects of using new technologies which have evolved through a consultation process with staff and governors and the procedures for reviewing them are secure.
- Guidance provided for parents and other stakeholders is informative but limited, because so far, it has been restricted to newsletters and third party publications.
- All staff and pupils know what to do if issues arise and understand and implement policies consistently. However, pupils are not fully aware of the safety rules for their year.
- Governors have ratified policies and procedures. Pupils, parents and other stakeholders have had much less involvement.
- The senior leadership team are aware of some of the areas which need developing. Strategies are in place to improve provision but many of these are recent and it is too early to judge the impact of these on outcomes for pupils.

Quality of training

The quality of the training is satisfactory.

- The majority of staff have received good training which has enabled them to gain a sound understanding of the safety issues surrounding new technologies. However, this training is not fully incorporated in to planning effective learning experiences for pupils.

The areas for improvement, which we discussed, were:

- developing curriculum planning so that it clearly identifies what aspects of e-safety are to be learned in each year and the activities that are going to be used to teach them
- securing systems which will bridge the gap between the secure provision in school and the more open access beyond
- developing systems which will allow pupils greater access to email so that they can gain a better understanding of the issues they may encounter.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop e-safety 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

John Dunne
Additional Inspector