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Mrs J Adamson
Headteacher
Cotelands PRU Co John Ruskin College
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Dear Mrs Adamson

Ofsted survey inspection programme – E-safety

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 04 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 and scrutiny of relevant documentation.

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

Outcomes for learners

Outcomes for pupils are good.

- Pupils know how to keep safe on the internet and when using new mobile technologies. They know that signing up to the school's acceptable use policy carries a responsibility to comply.
- They are careful about sharing personal details on-line and know that information put on social networking sites it is not necessarily secure and that people could abuse this information.
- Pupils have a growing awareness that information gleaned from internet sites is not necessarily true.

- They are aware of the nature and effects of cyber bullying.
- Pupils understand that the school's filtering system is in place to protect them while using computers at school.

Quality of provision

The quality of provision is good.

- Your e-safety policy is integrated into teaching and learning in all subjects with effective on-line technical support, however the level of off-site provision is not known well enough.
- Pupils who return to school following maternity leave or return after prolonged periods of absence are quickly up-dated on e-safety. Those pupils who are particularly vulnerable because of emotional and behavioural difficulties are closely monitored.
- The Managed Learning Environment (MLE) enables pupils to take a more active part in their education and they can access MLE from anywhere at any time with positive benefits to their learning.
- Pupils know that their e-safety outside school is just as important and a significant majority follow the guidance received at school.
- Your schemes of work clearly identify the e-safety issues for pupils to explore during lessons as they progress through the school and these are taken into account in pupils' individual learning plans.

Leadership and management

Leadership and management are good.

- You have clear user policies in place and these are followed by all staff. Systematic logging of any safety incidents is thorough with rapid follow-up action taken by the named person assigned to deal with e-safety incidents.
- Up-to-date e-safety training has ensured that all staff are familiar with school policies and know how to deal with any incidents appropriately.
- Whilst your school's self-evaluation makes good reference to e-safety provision it does not make an evaluative judgement on the impact on pupils' learning.
- You have strong support from pupils, staff and the management committee in developing and reviewing e-safety policy, but parents have yet to take a more proactive role.

Quality of training

The quality of training is good.

- Your training programme is well developed and all staff are provided with regular updates on e-safety. Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre courses, materials and website have a significant bearing on the good quality in-service training. As a result e-safety policy is kept under constant review as new technologies develop.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- verifying that all off-site courses and laptops provided for home use have an appropriate level of internet filtering
- increasing the level of involvement of parents/carers in policy development and review.

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

Michael Stanton
Additional Inspector