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Mrs J Hill
Acting Headteacher
The Streetly School
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Dear Mrs Hill

Ofsted survey inspection programme – E-safety

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 17 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 students 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 students, scrutiny of relevant documentation and an analysis of students' work.

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

Outcomes for learners

Outcomes for students are satisfactory.

- The students are safe and feel safe while using new technologies in school because of the filtering system you have in place. This means that a large number of websites are blocked and students and staff do not have access. Customisation of the filtering system does allow some flexibility and you are aware of the need to provide a more age-related approach to the management of the internet for students.

- The few incidents which have happened when students were using new technologies were managed effectively in accordance with your procedures.
- You ensure that students on work experience are safe by checking the procedures in work placements and are aware of the need to ensure their e-safety.
- For Year 7 students e-safety is covered at induction through a specific unit and a visiting speaker. For other year groups the knowledge they have to keep e-safe has been gained through the wider curriculum and parents and older siblings and the PSHE curriculum. However, not all students are aware of how to report e-safety incidents that may occur when at home where they may have more open access.

Quality of provision

The quality of provision is satisfactory.

- The curriculum provides students with basic e-safety awareness when using new technologies. However the curriculum is limited. It is not age related and many of the basic concepts covered in Year 7 are repeated each year. This means that although students are safe they have a limited understanding of the potentially more complex issues which they may face as they continue to utilise new technologies.

Leadership and management

The leadership and management of e-safety are good.

- There are e-safety policies and procedures concerning the use of new technologies in place and staff have a good awareness. Policies and procedures are your responsibility and they are informed and supported by a small specialist team who are tasked with yearly updates and staff training and development.
- Governors are aware of, and have ratified, the policies and procedures.
- You have a good awareness of the areas for e-safety development and have identified or put in place various initiatives which are outlined in your action plan. It is too early to judge the impact of these initiatives on outcomes for students.

Quality of training

The quality of the training is satisfactory.

- Staff have had recent child protection training that also included e-safety training. You are aware of the need to provide more specific e-safety training in the future.
- Your e-safety action plan identifies parent and governor support training to be undertaken in September 2009.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- ensuring that students and parents understand how to respond to e-safety incidents when they occur
- developing a curriculum which allows students to gain an effective knowledge and understanding of e-safety issues that is relevant to their individual needs
- effectively linking the staff e-safety training to the more managed approach to internet access that you plan to introduce.

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

Bob Hamp
Her Majesty's Inspector