30 June 2009

Mrs B King
Headteacher
The Ockendon School
Erriff Drive
South Ockendon
Essex
RM15 5AY

Dear Mrs King

Ofsted survey inspection programme – E-safety

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 26 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 students and scrutiny of relevant documentation.

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

Outcomes for learners

Outcomes for students are good.

- Students take responsibility for keeping themselves safe on the internet. They are aware of, and conform to, the school's acceptable use policy to which they and their parents have signed up.
- They understand that social networking sites can present risks to their safety if not used appropriately.
- Students understand the need to protect their personal details, including their photograph and are aware that sharing them with unknown people carries significant risks to their safety.

- They are competent users of mobile technology and know how to stay safe when sending and receiving phone calls and texts and for some connecting to the internet.
- Consequently students feel safe at school because there are managed systems in place that enable them to make effective use of the internet and there are clear procedures for reporting any incidents.

Quality of provision

The quality of provision is good.

- Your e-safety policy forms an important part of teaching and learning in all subjects and there is excellent technical support.
- Students who join the school part way through the year or return after prolonged absence follow systematic induction procedures and in common with all other students and their parents, must sign up to your acceptable use policy.
- Students understand that access to the internet and other mobile technologies needs to be thought about and older students are making their own risk assessments.
- The ICT scheme of work clearly identifies areas of e-safety to be taught and this is reinforced, as appropriate, in other subjects. This has positive benefits as students move through the school because e-safety is constantly revisited.

Leadership and management

Leadership and management are good.

- You have clear user policies in place and these are followed by all staff.
- You have an effective system for logging any safety incidents, which is carefully monitored by both you and a named senior teacher who take responsibility for dealing with any such incidents promptly.
- E-safety training is developing well and all staff are familiar with school policies and know how to deal with any incidents appropriately.
- Your school's self-evaluation is accurate and provides clear evidence of the school's provision for e-safety.
- You have strong support from staff, students, parents and governors, who play an important role in policy planning and review of e-safety.

Quality of training

The quality of training is good.

- Although staff have not yet completed an audit of their knowledge and skills relating to e-safety, your training programme is developing well and is regularly reviewed. This, combined with on-going child protection update training, has provided further information that you have used to update school policies.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- the completion of an e-safety audit with all staff
- raising the profile of e-safety for all parents and carers.

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