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Mr K Jenkinson  
Headteacher  
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Dear Mr Jenkinson

Ofsted survey inspection programme – E-safety

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 22-23 June 2009 to look at 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 two sixth formers who board, a tour of the school, scrutiny of relevant documentation and analysis of students' work.

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

Outcomes for learners

Outcomes for students are good.

- Students are safe when they are using new technologies at the school. They know, understand and put into practice what they need to do to keep themselves safe. This is due to the security of the system and the appropriate support from the curriculum provided.
- Not only do they stay safe in school, where they are supported, but the vast majority of those spoken to apply their knowledge and understanding outside school.

- Students appreciate the flexibly managed system which lets them use email and, in some subjects, a wide range of web resources. Bullying incidents among the school's students are very rare and dealt with effectively.
- Younger students understand and respect the school's expectations. They appreciate their regular opportunities to use computers, treat equipment carefully and understand why its use in school is monitored. Older students are equally responsible and are reflective about e-safety issues. They are prepared well for leaving school and coping with greater individual responsibility.

## Quality of provision

The curriculum provides well for e-safety.

- Basic information is covered well. The curriculum has responded quickly and effectively to incidents and taken account of national research on e-safety.
- Risks for students are safely managed in school without over restricting students' use of new technology. Students and staff know clearly what counts as acceptable use of technology. In a range of subjects, students have well-guided opportunities to apply what they learn. Monitoring and pastoral guidance deal effectively with the occasional problems which arise, so they do not spread. The school helps its students to think for themselves and take responsible decisions.
- Some opportunities to add progressive challenge are missed; for example, ways to evaluate information sources on the web are introduced to younger students in information and communication technology (ICT) lessons but not well consolidated in schemes of work for other subjects. Those leading the tutorial programme have reacted to incidents by incorporating work on cyberbullying and protecting personal information, but there is scope to develop students' knowledge, skills and understanding progressively.
- While the evidence indicates that students are safe when using ICT out of school, students suggest that not all their parents or carers know enough about how to manage e-safety risks at home.

## Leadership and management

The leadership and management of e-safety are good.

- You publicise to students, staff and parents a straightforward policy for acceptable use of new technology, and provide both warnings and helpful safety information for all users of the school's systems. Guidance provided on the school website for students, parents and other stakeholders is clear and there are links to further up to date information and advice.
- Parents as well as students sign the acceptable use agreement in the school diary. Your surveys of parents' and students' views indicate high satisfaction with safety in general.

- With governors, you have kept school policy under review, making good use of Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) 'Think you know' training and other material to raise awareness. These have helped the school develop a clear view of how it can improve further, for instance, by helping parents to support their children's safe use of new technology.
- The specialist subjects provide good models for promoting responsible use of new technology by students. You have used them to lead training on the use of new technology in learning for staff in this and other local schools.

## Quality of training

Training on e-safety is good.

- A governor and a member of the senior leadership team have attended CEOP training, and this has had a positive impact on practice, for instance in the use of monitoring systems, and through the training that you have run in school.
- All members of staff, when they join the school, are provided with the 'acceptable use' policy which sets out what they can and cannot use new technologies for. Training on e-safety is embedded in the child protection training which includes all staff. As a result of the training, staff have become more vigilant and conscious of how they can incorporate e-safety in their work.
- Members of staff are confident that they know what procedures they need to follow and feel they are suitably prepared to support the teaching and learning of e-safety across the school. However, to date e-safety training has not been informed by an audit, and all receive the same training, regardless of need.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- embedding e-safety in subject schemes so that students' knowledge and understanding are progressively developed in practice
- working with parents to develop their knowledge and understanding of e-safety to enable them to better support their children.

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

Susan Bowles  
Her Majesty's Inspector