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Mrs C Winston
Headteacher
St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary
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Dear Mrs Winston

Ofsted 2009-10 subject survey inspection programme: citizenship

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 2 July 2009 to look at work in citizenship.

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 learners, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of two lessons and an assembly.

The overall effectiveness of citizenship was judged to be outstanding.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards are good.

- Pupils showed good understanding of key aspects of citizenship such as human rights and responsibilities.
- Good examples were seen of research and writing on a range of citizenship topics including diversity and recycling.
- Examples were seen of pupils' use of evidence to campaign for improvement in contexts such as the local community and the environment.
- Pupils on the school council understood their representative role and took their responsibilities very seriously.
- Pupils welcomed opportunities to contribute to aspects of the life of the school as Young Leaders and in projects such as recycling, looking after the school garden and charitable activity.

Quality of teaching and learning

The quality of teaching and learning is good.

- Teachers used a range of strategies to help pupils think about citizenship issues.
- The small number of lessons observed were characterised by very good relationships, rapid pace and opportunities for pupils to contribute their own views on issues such as bullying and improving the community.
- A very well planned Key Stage 2 assembly on rules was well managed by the teacher and most pupils concentrated and responded positively to questions. The assembly was, however, heavily teacher-led and more might have been done to involve pupils and exploit the opportunities provided when the whole Key Stage is assembled together.
- Assessment records of pupils in the foundation stage are very detailed and provide evidence of achievement in aspects of citizenship, such as knowing right from wrong.
- Good examples of assessment were observed on pupils' work In Key Stages 1 and 2 including helpful formative comment.

Quality of the curriculum

The curriculum is outstanding.

- A thorough citizenship programme draws on the non-statutory guidance and interprets this for each year group from the Foundation Stage to Year 6.
- The curriculum provides a good basis for teachers' planning and enables them to respond to topical events that bring citizenship to life.
- The curriculum is augmented in the assembly programme, extra curricular activities and the broader life of the school.
- Pupils experience democracy through the proper procedures of voting and representation on the school council and elections for head boy and girl. The school council is valued by pupils for what it has achieved.

Leadership and management

The leadership and management of citizenship are outstanding.

- Citizenship is central to the work of the school and permeates its life.
- The citizenship coordinator has established a strong curriculum and additionally provides support for teachers and monitors outcomes through observation and work sampling.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- consider how to involve pupils more in Key Stage 2 assemblies on citizenship
- continue to develop assessment and reporting of citizenship.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop citizenship 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

Scott Harrison
Her Majesty's Inspector