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Mr C Parkinson  
Principal  
Bosworth Community School  
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Dear Mr Parkinson

Ofsted survey inspection programme – personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during our visit on 6 and 7 October 2009 to look at work in PSHE education.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the PSHE education, the visit had a particular focus on learning how to stay safe.

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 included interviews with staff and students, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of students' work and observation of three lessons, five tutor sessions and an assembly.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE education is satisfactory.

Achievement in PSHE education

Achievement in PSHE education is satisfactory.

- Students have a sound knowledge of healthy eating, and know about the effects of drug and alcohol misuse.
- They have a good knowledge and understanding of the need for physical activity to stay healthy. They have excellent opportunities to put this into practice with 100% participation rate in two hours of physical education a week and high participation in extra curricular sporting activities.
- Students are less secure on their understanding of mental health issues such as how to deal with stress.

- Students' knowledge of sex education is good but they have had less opportunity to explore strong emotions and different forms of relationships.
- Students are well informed about bullying including racist, homophobic and cyber bullying.
- Students have a sound knowledge of basic economic concepts and financial capability.
- Students have a good understanding of career planning and enjoy and learn from work experience.
- Students are friendly, polite and get on well together. Some are highly articulate and analytical. However, a minority have difficulty in reflecting on and expressing their opinions confidently.

### Quality of teaching of PSHE education

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory.

- The quality of teaching varies considerably, particularly across tutor groups.
- Teachers promote good relationships and manage behaviour well.
- Planning for cross-curricular PSHE lessons is satisfactory but learning objectives for PSHE education are not always made clear.
- The methodology used by teachers and the engagement of students are greatly restricted by a lack of time and specialist knowledge.
- No formal assessment for PSHE education is in place, but there is innovative use of English coursework to demonstrate understanding of the argument about the legalisation of drugs.
- Provision for vulnerable students, made through the pastoral team, is highly effective. For example, anger management sessions and smoking cessation groups are organised for identified students.

### Quality of the curriculum in PSHE education

The PSHE education curriculum is satisfactory.

- There are several strengths in the curriculum. These include the specialist sports status which has a very strong impact on PSHE education and gives students many opportunities to apply their knowledge and understanding in staying physically active.
- Provision for careers education and guidance is planned well and very effective use is made of external agencies such as during the health fair.
- The introduction of the social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) programme has had a positive impact on improving the motivation of students and raising staff awareness of emotional health.
- The Healthy Schools award has made a valuable contribution to raising the profile of healthy lifestyles.

- The curriculum model used by the school limits effective teaching and learning in PSHE education and results in learning experiences which are fragmented.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE education

The leadership and management of PSHE education are satisfactory.

- The progress leaders who manage PSHE provision work hard and are dedicated. They do a good job in supporting tutors.
- Monitoring and evaluation of PSHE education are accurate and lesson observation takes place on a regular basis.
- The school improvement plan includes re-organising the delivery of PSHE education within the curriculum and thus recognises its current limitations.
- There is a lack of specialist training for the staff responsible for teaching PSHE education.

Subject issue; learning to stay safe

- Students have a good understanding about safety issues such e-safety.
- There are good routines in practical lessons, such as science, to ensure students adhere to safety rules.
- Parents are confident that safety issues are covered appropriately.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring there is sufficient time within the curriculum to deliver PSHE education so it is more coherent
- ensuring PSHE education teachers have specialist training and skills
- implementing a system for monitoring students' progress in PSHE education.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop PSHE education 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

Margaret Jones  
Her Majesty's Inspector