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Mrs P Saville
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Saville

Ofsted 2009-10 subject survey inspection programme: personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 3 and 4 December to look at work in PSHE.

As outlined in our initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the subject, the visit had a particular focus on learning 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.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included discussions with pupils, governors and staff, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work, observation of the school council at work and observation of four lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE education is good.

Achievement in PSHE education

Achievement in PSHE education is good.

- Pupils have an age-appropriate understanding about sex and relationships education and the dangers of alcohol and smoking.
- Pupils learn to make sensible choices about their health and personal well-being, taking full advantage of the provision in sport.
- Pupils' personal development is very good, as exemplified by the concern they show for each other in lessons and around the school.
- Pupils of all ages and abilities respond maturely to the subject.

- Older pupils benefit from opportunities to take responsibility, such as being 'playground leaders'.

Quality of teaching of PSHE education

The quality of teaching of PSHE education is good.

- The four lessons seen all had strong features. These included the quality of the relationships between staff and pupils and between the pupils themselves, as well as a good range of appropriate activities.
- Pupils sustain their attention in PSHE education lessons because they enjoy them.
- Staff identify pupils' needs and provide excellent support to individuals.
- Teachers' assessment of pupils' learning is good but parents and carers are not made aware of their children's progress in all strands of the subject.

Quality of the curriculum in PSHE education

The quality of the PSHE education curriculum is good.

- Provision for the social and emotional aspects of pupils' learning is developing well as a result of the use of the social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) programme.
- Areas not covered by the SEAL outcomes are not mapped across the school.
- Satisfactory attention is paid to developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of the world of work.
- Good use is made of visiting 'experts' to develop pupils' awareness of key aspects of the subject. Often, their parents and carers are involved too.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE education

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE education is outstanding.

- The commitment of school leaders to pupils' well-being is evidenced well through the targeting of pupils' specific needs.
- Excellent use is made of local resources to enrich pupils' experiences.
- Excellent use is made of the expertise and interests of school staff to manage different aspects of the subject.
- Good subject links exist with the local secondary school.
- Developments are well considered and are referenced well in the school's development plans.

- PSHE education lessons and activities are not evaluated for their effectiveness, although school leaders have a very good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in provision.
- The school gets very good support from the local authority in this aspect of its work.

Subject issue: learning to stay safe

- Pupils are very aware about how to keep themselves safe. They report that they feel safe.
- Pupils greatly value the care taken by staff in teaching them to be safe in and out of school.
- In physical education, pupils have a good understanding of how to use the equipment and apparatus.
- The school ensures that pupils are prepared well for living in a local environment which has many busy roads and waterways.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring opportunities to develop pupils' economic well-being and understanding of the world of work are in place throughout the school
- evaluating the outcomes of PSHE education lessons and activities.

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

Henry Moreton
Additional Inspector