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Mr K Flood
Headteacher
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Pontefract Road
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Dear Mr Flood

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

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils, during my visit on 3 and 4 February 2010 to look at work in PSHE.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of PSHE, 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, staff, and governors; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' work; and observation of four lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE is outstanding.

Achievement in PSHE

Achievement in PSHE is good.

- Pupils have a good understanding about sex and relationships education and the dangers of smoking and alcohol.
- They learn to make sensible choices about their health, well-being and personal safety.
- Pupils' personal development is excellent as exemplified by their involvement in many activities within the community.
- Older pupils relish the chance to help others by being 'peer pals'.

- Members of the School Council make a significant contribution to the life and work of the school.

Quality of teaching of PSHE

The quality of teaching of PSHE is good.

- The four lessons seen all had strong features. These included the quality of relationships between staff and pupils and the use of information and communication technology.
- Staff identify pupils' needs and provide good support to individuals.
- Parents and carers are made aware of their children's progress in the subject.
- Teachers do not routinely assess pupils' progress in all the strands of the subject.

Quality of the curriculum in PSHE

The PSHE curriculum is outstanding.

- Provision for pupils' learning is planned meticulously.
- The various strands of provision are embedded well through subjects such as religious education.
- Excellent use is made of visiting 'experts' and visits to develop pupils' awareness of key aspects of the subject.
- Parents, carers and pupils are consulted and very well informed about provision.
- Pupils' personal and social development is significantly enhanced by the extensive extra-curricular opportunities available to them.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE

The leadership and management of PSHE are outstanding.

- All staff embrace the subject wholeheartedly, and are supported very well by the school's governors.
- Support for pupils' personal and social development permeates the school's work.
- Excellent use is made of local resources to enrich pupils' experiences.
- Excellent subject links exist with the pyramid of local catholic schools.
- Self-assessment is accurate and improvements in the subject are very well referenced in the school development plans.

Subject issue: learning to stay safe

- Pupils have an excellent awareness of how to keep themselves safe.

- In physical education, pupils have a good understanding of how to use the equipment and apparatus.
- The school ensures that pupils are very well prepared for living in a local environment which has busy roads, waterways and railways.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring assessment opportunities are built into units of work in all strands of the subject.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop PSHE in the school.

As I explained previously, 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