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Mrs V Stinson
Headteacher
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Dear Mrs Stinson

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 9 and 10 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, governors and staff; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' work; and observation of two lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE is good.

Achievement in PSHE

Achievement in PSHE is good.

- Pupils know how to stay safe and healthy. They have an age-appropriate understanding about the dangers of drugs, drinking alcohol and smoking, as well as sex and relationships.
- Pupils learn to make sensible choices about their well-being. In the lessons seen, the younger pupils used 'safe bear' to show how they can be safe themselves and also how to make others feel safe, while the older pupils learned how to deal with anti-social use of mobile telephones and the internet.

- Pupils' personal development is good, and there are many opportunities for them to work in teams and to use their initiative around the school.

Quality of teaching of PSHE

The quality of teaching of PSHE is good.

- The two lessons seen had strong features. These included the quality of the relationships between staff and pupils, the content of the discussions and the tasks which matched pupils' individual needs.
- Teachers embrace initiatives, such as PASS (pupils attitudes to self and school) and TASC (thinking in a social context), to develop pupils' personal and social skills.
- Teachers' assessment of pupils' learning is good and parents and carers are informed of their children's progress in the subject.
- Teachers make good use of assessment information to target provision, especially for vulnerable pupils.

Quality of the curriculum in PSHE

The PSHE curriculum is good.

- Provision for the social and emotional aspects of pupils' learning is good because it is embedded well in the curriculum for all year groups, and supplemented well through assemblies.
- Good use is made of visits and visitors to develop pupils' awareness of key aspects of the subject. This includes the development of their social skills through visits to local activity centres, and their personal safety by learning about the dangers of using mobile telephones while crossing roads.
- Pupils' health and well-being is enhanced by the many opportunities to take part in physical activities, including through the effective use of a sports coach.
- Satisfactory attention is paid to developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of economic awareness, with the support of the local authority and the school's finance manager.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE

The leadership and management of PSHE are good.

- All staff are committed to the subject, and are supported very well by the senior management team.
- Professional training for staff in the subject has led to well considered developments.
- Self-assessment is accurate and the plans for improvement are focused well.

- There are very good systems to monitor and evaluate provision and outcomes, although lesson observation does not take place on a regular basis.

Subject issue: learning to stay safe

- Pupils report they feel safe. They are interested in knowing how to support each other.
- Pupils have a good understanding of how to use the equipment and apparatus when taking part in physical education.
- Pupils are respectful of each other, of adults and their community.
- Pupils are well prepared for living in a local environment which has busy roads.

Area for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring the existing systems to monitor the subject are used more regularly.

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