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Mrs J Wagstaff
Headteacher
St John's Church of England Primary School
Bowen's Hill Road
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Dear Mrs Wagstaff

Ofsted 2010–11 subject survey inspection programme: developing children's economic well-being in primary schools

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 22 June 2010 to look at work in developing children's economic well-being.

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 settings will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: interviews with staff, governors and pupils; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' work; and observations of two lessons.

The overall effectiveness of the provision to develop pupils' economic well-being is good.

Features of good practice

- Pupils have very good attitudes to learning. They are supportive of each other and work well collaboratively. They are self-confident and have good presentation skills.
- Pupils develop a good knowledge and understanding, appropriate to their age, of economic, environmental and global issues, and a good awareness of the moral issues surrounding global economic concepts, such as poverty and fair trade.
- Pupils have a very good understanding of the importance of maximising the sustainability of resources, including, for example, ways of achieving this by recycling, reducing energy costs, and growing one's own food.

- The topic-based curriculum, reflecting a whole-child approach, provides a stimulating context in which pupils acquire and can apply their learning about economic and business concepts.
- The school provides well-managed opportunities for pupils to use their own initiative and develop organisational skills in both mini-enterprise activities and charity work, such as 'suitcase sales' and the production of the school cookery book. These activities help pupils to develop their self-confidence, communication and team-working skills.
- Strong links with businesses and other organisations provide pupils with good opportunities to learn about the different jobs that people do and encourage their aspirations towards future career choices.

Areas for development, which we discussed, include:

- considering how to develop methods of assessing pupils' progress in acquiring the knowledge, skills and understanding linked to economic well-being, as they move through the school
- implementing fully plans for further developing personal financial education in the curriculum.

I hope that these observations are useful for the future development of work in this area.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on Ofsted's website under the URN for your school. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Russell Jordan
Her Majesty's Inspector