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Mrs J Tomlinson
Headteacher
The Revel CofE (Aided) Primary School
Brockhurst Lane
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Warwickshire
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Dear Mrs Tomlinson

Ofsted 2010-11 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 23 April 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: interviews with you, the Healthy School's coordinator, the subject leader for PSHE, the chair and two other governors; scrutiny of relevant documentation; discussion with two groups of Year 6 pupils; and observation of four lessons and a Key Stage 1 assembly.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE is good.

Achievement in PSHE

Achievement in PSHE is good.

- Pupils have excellent personal and social skills. They are polite, confident to talk at length to visitors, interact well with each other, and develop independence through the well-established school routines and carefully planned residential visits.
- Older pupils have a good knowledge of sex and relationships education and are aware of how boys and girls change physically and emotionally as they get older.

- Pupils have a good knowledge of the effects of alcohol and legal drugs. However, they have less knowledge of the effects of illegal drugs.
- They develop healthy eating habits from an early age.
- Pupils are developing their financial awareness and an understanding of the significance of debt, savings and budgeting.

Quality of teaching of PSHE

The quality of teaching of PSHE is good.

- Good relationships and routines are evident in all PSHE lessons. Teachers plan in detail for a number of different activities.
- In the most successful lessons, teachers' questioning is probing and extends learning. A good range of activities consolidates learning and makes good use of support staff.
- In the less successful lessons, learning objectives are too broad, activities are not sufficiently engaging and teachers' questioning lacks focus.
- Teaching successfully follows up and quickly resolves issues, such as the dangers of playing on ice, name-calling and cyber-bullying.

Quality of the curriculum in PSHE

The quality of the PSHE curriculum is satisfactory and rapidly improving.

- The scheme of work is evolving well with the amalgamation of the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) and a commercial scheme. Sex and relationships, drugs education and other specific issues, such as cyber-bullying, require additional focus throughout the scheme of work.
- The series of local, national and international residential visits in Years 4, 5 and 6 allows pupils to increasingly develop confidence and independence. They are a key feature of the PSHE curriculum.
- Good use is made of local professionals, such as the school nurse.
- Resources for PSHE are currently limited, although they are developing in line with available budget.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE

The leadership and management of PSHE are good.

- The new subject leader for PSHE has been well supported by the senior management team, has designed a PSHE curriculum effectively, and has successfully motivated staff to raise the profile of PSHE. The subject leader file is well organised.
- A clear action plan highlights the main areas for improvement in the subject.

- Good opportunities for continuing professional development allow the subject leader to develop expertise and network with other teachers and health professionals.
- Opportunities for the subject leader to monitor and support the quality of teaching and learning in PSHE have been insufficient.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- further developing the scheme of work to ensure sex, relationships and drugs education are revisited more frequently
- ensuring that all lesson plans have clear and measurable learning objectives
- ensuring that the subject leader for PSHE has opportunities to monitor and support the quality of PSHE teaching and learning.

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 under the URN for your school. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Clive Kempton
Her Majesty's Inspector