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Mr H Cadwallader  
Headteacher  
Banwell Primary School  
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Dear Mr Cadwallader

Ofsted 2010–11 subject survey inspection programme: physical education (PE)

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils, during my visit on 27 September 2010 to look at work in PE.

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 without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: interviews with staff and pupils; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' reports; and observation of three lessons and other activities.

The overall effectiveness of PE is outstanding.

Achievement in PE

Achievement in PE is outstanding.

- Pupils attain standards that are well above those expected by the end of Year 6, especially in dance and gymnastics, because of the quality of teaching. Nearly all pupils attain the expected level in swimming because of the opportunities provided through the curriculum. Pupils make good progress overall from their below average starting points and outstanding progress in their use of observation, evaluation and feedback skills. Pupils have good awareness of leading a healthy active lifestyle.
- Older pupils have good opportunities to become play leaders and work with younger pupils on a range of different activities during breaks and lunchtimes.
- All pupils spoken to say how much they enjoy PE and this is reflected in their positive attitudes in lessons and high participation rates in extra-

curricular clubs. Pupils are particularly enthusiastic about opportunities to 'get involved and compete against other schools' and many mention the range of activities and equipment they can access in lessons and during extra-curricular clubs.

### Quality of teaching in PE

The quality of teaching in PE is good.

- Teaching is good overall with aspects that are outstanding. Where teaching is outstanding pupils are given high levels of challenge and they receive continuous feedback on how well they are doing and what they need to do next to improve. However, inconsistency exists between classes in the amount of challenge and direct feedback given by teachers to help all pupils understand how to improve further. A majority of those pupils spoken to throughout the inspection said that at times work is too easy and they would like to be challenged even more.
- All staff have good subject knowledge and are highly effective at using questioning to engage pupils and to help them identify strengths and weaknesses in each other's performances. Photographs are used well to record pupils' experiences and progress, while the videoing of pupils' work to support evaluation is being introduced, particularly in dance and gymnastics.
- The range of teaching methods is good. Pupils are given a good amount of time to practise and consolidate their skills before moving to the next task, and to self-check their progress. The inclusion and support for deaf pupils and those identified as vulnerable or with special educational needs and/or disabilities is outstanding. The deployment of teaching assistants to support individuals or groups of pupils is a strength of provision and helps them make good progress.
- A good range of strategies is used to assess pupils' performances during lessons, which leads to accurate judgements about pupils' attainment in different activities by the end of a unit of work. Procedures miss the opportunity to assess pupil's achievement in other roles such as leaders, coaches and officials.

### Quality of the curriculum in PE

The quality of the PE curriculum is outstanding.

- The curriculum offers a broad range of opportunities that covers all six areas of the PE National Curriculum. Schemes of work are comprehensive and are reviewed annually by the subject leader to ensure continuity of learning experiences and that they are meeting the needs of each class. Younger pupils make a very good start in PE through the 'Leap into Life' programme. Good links are made between subjects where possible and excellent use is made of the local environment for outdoor and adventurous activities.
- All pupils have two hours of high-quality PE each week as a minimum and a high proportion attend at least one hour of extra-curricular activities.

The school's use of 'Join-Up-Join In' funding is helping to engage more economically disadvantaged pupils in PE and school sport.

- An excellent range of clubs and enrichment activities is offered at lunchtime, after school and outside usual school hours. The school makes very good use of external specialists to support programmes such as Tae-Kwon-Do, 'Dance your Socks Off' and table tennis.

#### Effectiveness of leadership and management in PE

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PE is outstanding.

- Subject leadership is highly effective because of PE expertise, an in-depth understanding of the existing strengths and areas for development and high levels of expectation of pupils and staff. Action-planning and current PE initiatives are exploited fully to ensure continuously improving provision. Consequently, pupils are provided with outstanding opportunities and attain extremely high standards and staff are very well supported to improve the quality of teaching.
- PE and dance have a very high profile in the school. The excellent links created with the school sport partnership, local Specialist School for the Performing Arts and local sports clubs significantly enhance and extend opportunities. An excellent range of equipment, resources and facilities supports high-quality provision very well.
- The process of listening and responding to pupils' views is a strong aspect of the subject. For example, following pupils' comments a traversing wall has been erected and more dance clubs have been introduced.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring consistency in:
  - the level of challenge for all pupils
  - all pupils knowing how well they are doing and how to improve further
  - the use of modern technology to evaluate and improve pupils' skills and performances.

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

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. Except in the case of academies, a copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Judith Rundle  
Her Majesty's Inspector