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Mr H Rowan
Headteacher
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
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Dear Mr Rowan

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 1 February 2011 to look at work in PSHE.

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 a group of Year 6 pupils and staff involved in the leadership and management of PSHE; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' work; and observation of four lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE is good with outstanding features.

Achievement in PSHE

Achievement in PSHE is good.

- Pupils have outstanding personal and social skills. They are polite, courteous, play well together and show respect for the school and each other. They know how and when to make the right choices.
- They know what constitutes a healthy, active lifestyle and the importance of personal hygiene.
- Pupils have sophisticated communication skills and are confident to talk at length on a wide range of issues with visitors. They are strong ambassadors for the school within the wider community. New arrivals with little or no English make good progress and quickly catch up as a result of the support and encouragement they receive from staff and pupils.

- Pupils have currently less knowledge relating to sex and relationships, drugs and alcohol education.

Quality of teaching in PSHE

The quality of teaching in PSHE is good.

- Teachers prepare thoroughly for PSHE lessons. Innovative and practical activities are used well to reinforce learning and engage all pupils.
- In the best lessons, the pace of teaching and learning is brisk and activities challenge pupils to express their emotions. The delivery style uses a wide range of teaching strategies.
- The majority of teachers share clear learning objectives with pupils and questioning is used well to extend and challenge understanding.

Quality of the curriculum in PSHE

The quality of the curriculum in PSHE is good.

- The PSHE scheme of work is embedded in the whole curriculum and carefully mapped into different subject areas.
- PSHE is not taught as a discrete subject each week and, as a result, some aspects of sex and relationships, drugs and alcohol education are not covered in sufficient depth.
- The wider PSHE curriculum ensures that all pupils develop: leadership skills through various opportunities throughout the school; empathy towards those less fortunate than themselves through extensive charity work; independence through residential and educational visits; and confidence and self-esteem through working with other people in the community.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE

Leadership and management in PSHE are good.

- The leadership and management of PSHE are dedicated and thorough. The subject is highly valued and supported by senior leaders in the school.
- Comprehensive resource boxes are provided by the coordinator for each year group which are supplemented by individual teachers.
- Good support is provided by the coordinator for individual teachers through guidance and advice on additional resources.
- The coordinator has liaised well with other subject leaders in the school to map PSHE provision and instil high expectations for PSHE outcomes.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring that pupils' knowledge of sex and relationships, drugs and alcohol education is further developed and visited more frequently within the scheme of work

- ensuring that PSHE is timetabled on a regular basis.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop PSHE 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

Clive Kempton
Her Majesty's Inspector