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Mr D Lloyd
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Lloyd

Ofsted 2011–12 subject survey inspection programme: physical education (PE)

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 28 November 2011 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; and observation of three lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PE is satisfactory.

Achievement in PE

Achievement in PE is satisfactory.

- Children enter the Early Years Foundation Stage with physical skills that are below those typical for children of their age. They make good progress and, by the time they enter Year 1, their attainment is average. During Key Stages 1 and 2, all groups of pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make satisfactory progress. By the end of Year 6, attainment is average. Although the school provides pupils with an extensive swimming programme, approximately one in five cannot swim the expected 25 metres by the end of Year 6. However, most of these pupils either have physical disabilities or joined the school towards the end of Key Stage 2 as non-swimmers. Most pupils have a satisfactory level of physical fitness. In lessons, because of the emphasis placed on

acquiring and developing skills, pupils make better progress in this strand than in others.

- PE and school sport make a good contribution to pupils' personal development. Pupils enjoy lessons, engage enthusiastically and show a good regard for their own safety and that of others. Pupils know how to eat healthily and have a satisfactory understanding of the effects of exercise upon improving health and fitness. In all the lessons observed, pupils worked well together and showed a good level of creativity and imagination.

Quality of teaching in PE

The quality of teaching in PE is good.

- Over the past year the quality of teaching has improved because the subject leader now teaches all the classes in Key Stage 2 and a new appointment has strengthened the teaching in Key Stage 1. Teaching in the Early Years Foundation Stage is consistently good because staff have a strong knowledge of the needs of individual children and engage them in a wide range of daily physical activities. Although sports coaches were not observed, the school reports that their coaching in the after-school clubs is of a good quality.
- Relationships between teachers and pupils are strong. In most lessons, pupils have many opportunities to evaluate their own learning and that of others, and many do this well. Lessons are planned thoroughly with good attention to pupils acquiring and developing skills. However, pupils have fewer opportunities to select and apply these skills in different activities. All lessons provide some opportunities for pupils to improve their levels of physical fitness, but these sessions are not long enough and the activities are not sufficiently vigorous to promote good achievement.

Quality of the curriculum in PE

The quality of the curriculum in PE is satisfactory.

- All pupils take part in at least two hours of PE each week. Many pupils, especially in Key Stage 2, attend a range of after-school sports and activity clubs, some of which are led by specialist sports coaches. Pupils in Year 6 are trained as play coaches and organise games and activities for younger pupils during the lunchtime break. Additional, voluntary after-school lessons are provided for pupils who cannot swim the expected 25 metres before the end of Year 6, but not all of them attend these sessions. The school has plans to raise the proportion of pupils who are able to swim 25 metres by working closely with external agencies and other local schools.
- All areas of learning are included in the curriculum. Outdoor and adventurous activities are provided through residential visits. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, regular and effective use is made of the outdoor area to provide for children's physical development. Links with local sports clubs help to develop the skills of the more able pupils. All pupils take part in mini-festivals and local schools' tournaments. However, pupils'

participation in inter- and intra-school competitions is not sufficiently developed.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PE

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PE is satisfactory.

- The subject leader is strongly committed to improving provision and raising pupils' achievement. She demonstrates a sound understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement. Working closely with the local sports partnership, she has introduced new initiatives to improve provision and raise pupils' achievement.
- Effective procedures for evaluating pupils' achievement provide an accurate knowledge of attainment at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2. However, this information does not enable leaders to monitor the progress of all classes and different groups of pupils. Numerous wall displays around the school and involvement of all pupils in tournaments organised through the local sports partnership help raise the profile of sport and PE.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- raising pupils' achievement by:
 - ensuring that a greater emphasis is placed on selecting and applying their skills in different activities
 - providing more opportunities for pupils to engage in inter- and intra-school competitions
 - making sure that activities are vigorous and sustained to improve their fitness
- implementing plans to increase the proportion of pupils who swim the expected 25 metres by the end of Year 6 to at least 90%
- improving procedures for assessing and tracking pupils' progress so that leaders can monitor the progress of all classes and groups of pupils.

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

As 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. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Roy Bowers
Her Majesty's Inspector