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15 August 2012

Mrs S Ridge
Headteacher
St Giles' CofE Primary School
Blanche Lane
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Dear Mrs Ridge

Ofsted 2012–13 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 5 July 2012 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 subject documentation and observation of two lessons and several sports day activities.

The overall effectiveness of PE is good.

Achievement in PE

Achievement in PE is good.

- Pupils get off to a good start in the Early Years Foundation Stage with a combination of opportunities for child-initiated, rigorous play and more formal PE lessons. By the end of Year 6 pupils leave the school with above average attainment in PE. Almost all of them reach the expected level in swimming. Disabled pupils and those with special educational needs are well integrated into lessons and receive good-quality support.
- Pupils enjoy PE a great deal. They talk with enthusiasm about the range of activities on offer, especially the opportunities to become play leaders and organising their own clubs for younger pupils.

Quality of teaching in PE

The quality of teaching in PE is good.

- Lessons are usually taught by one of two coaches. One is employed directly by the school and also works as a teaching assistant; the other works privately. Each coach brings their own areas of expertise and focuses on these parts of the curriculum. Coaches have a good understanding of pupils' strengths and adapt lessons appropriately for the range of abilities.
- Lessons focus effectively on the development of pupils' knowledge of fitness and health. As a result, pupils are very conscious of the importance of regular exercise. Coaches are adept at developing pupils' skills and encouraging them to think tactically in competitive games. Opportunities to encourage pupils to evaluate and improve their own and others' performance are less well developed. The school is considering ways that they could use information and communication technology (ICT) to help pupils reflect on their own performance and that of others.

Quality of the curriculum in PE

The quality of the curriculum in PE is good.

- All areas of the National Curriculum are covered but there is a bias towards games, so pupils do not always get the opportunity to fully develop sequences and routines in dance and gymnastics.
- Extra-curricular activities are plentiful, varied and enjoyed by pupils. Most pupils take part in activities and some older pupils organise clubs for younger pupils. Playtimes are active, with play leaders encouraging younger pupils to enjoy games and activities.
- The school has maintained strong partnerships with other local schools so opportunities for competition have been maintained. Pupils talk enthusiastically about these opportunities they have to play sport against other schools.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PE

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PE is good.

- The subject leader is currently away from school and you have seamlessly taken temporary control. Leaders have a good understanding of the impact of PE teaching and extra-curricular activities across the school. Pupils' views are well understood and used to plan further developments.
- The school works well with other schools and together they provide a good range of opportunities for pupils to work together and for teachers to share expertise. Assessment is used well to support leaders in evaluating the effectiveness of the subject. Leaders have a good understanding of the areas for development within school and have appropriately focused plans in place.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- developing opportunities for pupils to evaluate and improve their own and others' performance, using ICT where appropriate
- extending the opportunities for pupils to develop sequences and routines in gymnastics and dance.

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

Michael Sheridan
Her Majesty's Inspector