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Ms S Davis
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Dear Ms Davis

Ofsted Subject Survey Inspection 2006/7 – Religious Education
(RE)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 27 February 2007 to look at work in RE.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the subject, the visit had a particular focus on the implementation of the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus for RE.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of contributing institutions, but individual institutions will not be identified in the main txt. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half-term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with staff and pupils, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of one lesson with the Reception class.

The overall effectiveness of religious education was judged to be good.

Achievement and standards

The achievement of pupils in RE is good.

- Between reception and Year 2 pupils make good progress in RE in response to stimulating and supportive teaching. This progress is in line with the overall strong profile of the school, particularly in English.

- Standards in RE are broadly in line with expectations outlined in the new Norfolk Agreed Syllabus in relation to 'learning about religion', where the majority of the pupils easily reach Level 2 at the end of Key Stage 1. This level of attainment is less evident in relation to 'learning from religion'. RE contributes effectively to the achievement of the early learning goals.
- Pupils enjoy and take part enthusiastically in their RE lessons, where their own ideas are valued and where they are encouraged to participate fully.

Quality of teaching and learning in RE

The quality of teaching and learning in RE is good.

- Pupils enjoy their lessons and learn in a lively and stimulating atmosphere, with varied activities which combine to address the planned learning outcomes. Active learning through story-telling is a particular strength of RE in this school. Lesson planning is thorough and ensures that the needs of all pupils are addressed. Teachers know their children's needs and support their learning effectively.
- Teachers monitor their pupils' progress informally in class and more formal tests are being devised to support judgements in relation to level descriptions.

Quality of the RE curriculum

The quality of the RE curriculum is satisfactory.

- Medium and long-term planning are thorough and give strong support to teachers in preparing their lessons.
- The school's RE programme is currently mapped against the Programmes of Study for Foundation and Key Stage 1 in the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus. It is supplemented by schemes provided by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, and by units devised in school. Whilst the school schemes are broadly in line with many aspects of the Agreed Syllabus programmes, there is some lack of coherence in the overall RE curriculum, which means that some aspects of the level descriptors are difficult to accommodate.

Leadership and management of RE

Leadership and management of RE are satisfactory.

- On the basis of thorough planning the subject leader supports colleagues with appropriate curriculum guidance. Arrangements are being put in place to monitor and evaluate the school's provision on a more regular basis.

Subject issue

- The school as a whole is aware of the need to implement fully the provisions of the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus, particularly in relation to integrating the level descriptions into the assessment of learning and as a stimulus to target setting.

Areas for development which we discussed included

- achieving a more coherent curriculum which addresses more fully the programmes of study in the Norfolk agreed syllabus
- using the programmes of study and level descriptors in the Norfolk agreed syllabus to target learning more effectively.

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

As explained in my previous letter, a copy of this feedback will be sent to your Local Authority and its SACRE, and will be made available to the team for your next institutional inspection. It will also be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

John Rudge
Additional Inspector