

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404040
F 0207 421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



12 November 2008

Mrs G Scanlan
Headteacher
St Ursula's Convent School
Crooms Hill
Greenwich
London
SE10 8HN

Dear Mrs Scanlan

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 20 and 21 October 2008 to look at work in PSHEE.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the subject, the visit had a particular focus on economic well-being and information, advice and guidance (IAG).

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. 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 you, some of your staff, students from Key Stages 3 and 4, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of students' work and observation of five lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PSHEE was judged to be outstanding.

Achievement and standards

Students' overall achievement in PSHEE is outstanding.

- Students' personal development is excellent and they are exceptionally confident, polite and friendly.
- Students are highly articulate, they eagerly express their views and readily listen to the opinions of others.
- All students are making particularly rapid progress in becoming independent and taking more responsibility for their own learning.
- Students thoroughly enjoy opportunities for personal and social development.

- Students have a very good knowledge of how to keep safe and healthy.

Quality of teaching and learning of PSHEE

The quality of PSHEE teaching is good.

- Relationships between teachers and students are exceptionally good.
- PSHEE lessons use many interesting activities, so students are highly interested and motivated.
- The care and support for students are outstanding, so students feel extremely valued and very safe.
- Assessment is developing, particularly through students' self-assessment and the review of personal development as part of academic reviews. However, there is not yet enough information that will help students understand what to do to improve or to show them how well they are progressing.

Quality of the curriculum

The curriculum is outstanding.

- The programme for PSHEE is varied, interesting and provides a diverse range of challenges through stimulating enrichment days.
- Enrichment days and other extra activities, provide a good range of motivating trips and visitors.
- The programme for PSHEE is complemented well by contributions from other subjects, although the links are not always made clear to the students.
- Students are consulted about the content of enrichment days, ensuring that their needs are met extremely well.

Leadership and management of PSHEE

The leadership and management of PSHEE are good.

- The welcoming spiritual and reflective ethos makes a very strong contribution to students' personal development.
- Senior leaders have an accurate and perceptive view of the subject's strengths and areas for development. There is no formal programme for monitoring PSHEE, although enrichment days are evaluated well.
- There is no overall scheme of work or mapping of PSHEE provision, so the identification of gaps and ensuring progression rely on the continuity of staff.

Subject issue: economic well-being and information, advice and guidance

Students are well prepared for adult life.

- There is a good and developing programme of careers education, which together with information, advice and guidance, is being effectively extended to the younger years.
- Subjects across the curriculum make a good contribution to students' understanding of the workplace.
- Students benefit from good opportunities to learn how to manage their personal finances, although the activities do not always build sufficiently on students' previous learning.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- developing more assessment tasks for PSHEE.

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

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Susan Orpin
Additional Inspector