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Mrs J Hewitt  
Headteacher  
Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School  
Breaston Avenue  
Leigh  
Lancashire  
WN7 3DJ

Dear Mrs Hewitt

Ofsted 2009-10 subject survey inspection programme: personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 17 and 18 November 2009 to look at work in PSHE education.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the subject, the visit had a particular focus on how effectively pupils learn to stay safe.

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.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included discussions with pupils, governors and staff, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of four lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE education is good.

Achievement in PSHE education

Achievement in PSHE education is good.

- Pupils have an age-appropriate understanding about the dangers of drugs such as alcohol and smoking, as well as sex and relationships education.
- Pupils learn to make sensible choices about their personal well-being. In the whole-school assembly on cyber-bullying, pupils were taught how to use the internet and their mobile telephones safely, while in one lesson, older pupils talked sensitively about their use of 'worry dolls'.
- Pupils' personal development is good, and there are many opportunities for them to take initiatives around the school.

- Pupils treat the school building well and value being part of this vibrant school community.

#### Quality of teaching of PSHE education

The quality of teaching of PSHE education is good.

- The four lessons seen all had strong features. These included the quality of the relationships between staff and pupils and the interesting links with the week's curriculum focus of 'Bedford Hall meets the World'.
- Staff know pupils well and provide good support for their individual needs.
- Pupils take pride in their work and teachers record their achievements well, including through the use of photographs and effective wall displays.
- Teachers' assessment of pupils' learning is good, but parents and carers are not made aware of their children's achievements and progress in the subject.

#### Quality of the curriculum in PSHE education

The quality of the PSHE education curriculum is good.

- Pupils value the school's significant investment of time in the subject.
- Provision for the social and emotional aspects of pupils' learning is excellent.
- Satisfactory attention is paid to developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of the world of work.
- Use of the social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) programme is firmly embedded throughout the school and pupils of all ages and abilities respond maturely.

#### Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE education

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE education is good.

- The commitment of school leaders to pupils' well-being and safety is evidenced well by the focus on e-safety and how to deal with bullies.
- The school receives very good support from the local authority in this aspect of its work.
- Pupils, parents and governors are not involved enough in the subject's development.

#### Subject issue: learning to stay safe

- Pupils report they feel safe. They know where to turn to for help and they are interested in knowing how to support each other.
- Pupils are very respectful of each other and of adults.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring pupils' achievements are reported to parents
- involving pupils, parents and governors in the subject's development.

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

Henry Moreton  
Additional Inspector