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Father J G Briody  
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Dear Father J G Briody

Ofsted survey inspection programme – E-safety

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 12 May 2009 to look at work in E-safety.

As outlined in my initial letter, this visit looked at:

- the extent to which schools teach learners to adopt safe and responsible practices in using new technologies
- e-safety training for staff.

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 staff and students, scrutiny of relevant documentation and analysis of students' work.

The overall effectiveness of e-safety was judged to be good.

Outcomes for learners

Outcomes for learners are good.

- Students are safe when they are using new technologies at the school. They know and understand, and put into practice, what they need to do to keep themselves safe, this is due to the curriculum provided and the security of the system. Not only do they stay safe in school, where they are supported, but the vast majority of them apply their knowledge and understanding outside school. This has greatly reduced the number of bullying incidents and all the students spoken to felt that they were safe when using new technologies.

- The knowledge and understanding of the students is age related. The older students are prepared well for leaving school and coping with the more managed systems they will come across at university and in the work place.
- You allow students to have different access to the system based on their year group. This includes allowing students in Year 9 and above to have email. However some older students stated that the system in school is too restrictive and that they would appreciate a more managed system.

### Quality of provision

The curriculum provided is good.

- Students learn about e-safety in various ways. There is a good series of lessons which are taught through different subjects. These lessons ensure that all students know the various issues with using new technologies.
- In addition to these lessons you have linked with the police and other organisations to provide interesting and relevant experiences for the students. These include days on new technologies: covering the advantages and dangers and the impact of the use of them on young people. These days are planned to meet the needs and interests of the students to ensure that all are able to access the materials and learn.

### Leadership and management

Leadership and management are good.

- You have linked with police to adopt the 'sharp' system, which allows students to report any incidents online, which is monitored in school and by the local police. You have also linked with the primary schools to provide e-safety teaching and learning to Year 6 pupils.
- Parent links have been developed with the distribution of 'handy hints on e-safety' leaflets at review days as well as details of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) 'Think you know' website. Parents have been provided with the acceptable use policy and the school has worked closely with them to deal with the rare incidents of cyberbullying. Despite these measures you are determined to further involve parents in e-safety training.

### Quality of training

The quality of the training is good.

- Training on e-safety is comprehensive. All members of staff, when they join the school, are provided with the 'acceptable use' policy. This sets out what they can and can not use new technologies for. Training on e-safety is embedded in the child protection training which takes place very quickly after a member of staff joins the school. This initial training is followed up each year.

- Members of staff are confident that they know what procedures they need to follow and they are well prepared to support the teaching and learning of e-safety across the school.
- Some staff and students have attended CEOP training, this has impacted on the training that you have run in school.
- However the training provided is not linked to an audit. This means that all staff, regardless of need, receive the same training.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- developing strategies which will allow some students access to a more managed system
- working with parents to develop their knowledge and understanding of e-safety to enable them to better support their children
- ensuring that the training is focused on the specific needs of the staff.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop e-safety 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

Tanya Harber Stuart  
Her Majesty's Inspector