



City Of York Council

**Fishergate Primary School**  
**Fishergate**  
**York YO10 4AP**



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Dear Parent/Carer,

### **PE Subject Inspection - Ofsted update**

As you will know, Fishergate School received a one day inspection of PE on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009. As promised here is a summary of the key points for parents/carer.

The Ofsted judgment was that the overall effectiveness of the PE was good. The Inspector met with the Headteacher and particularly with key staff; Mrs Ekers (subject leader), Mr Pennington (Sports Teacher) and Ms Burkinshaw (LA Advisory Teacher for PE). He observed two PE lessons and examined files of records and evidence that the school supplied on the day. Here is a summary of the judgements:

#### **1. Achievements and Standards**

Pupils make good progress and their attainment is high. They get off to a very good start in the Foundation Stage and good progress continues with strong L4 and L5 attainment by the end of KS2. He commented on the observation that children were very strong in their knowledge and understanding of PE, but less well developed in their practical skills. The children were confident, well behaved and considerate to others and co-operate effectively.

#### **2. Quality of Teaching and Learning in PE**

Good teaching promotes good learning. Staff here benefited from specific training and suitably qualified sports coaches are used successfully. Lessons are fun and focused, and a variety of learning styles are used to stimulate children. All abilities are appropriately challenged and staff are supportive, whilst also allowing children opportunities to take responsibility for their own learning. Assessment practice is sound and tracking of progress ensures all staff has a class view of pupils' levels and progress.

#### **3. Quality of the PE Curriculum**

This was judged good, with all pupils getting 2 hours of PE weekly and all aspects of the PE National Curriculum are studied in depth. There is a broad range of after school clubs and local sports partnership enriches provision significantly. There is excellent provision for helping children who have co-ordination and mobility difficulties (through our Multi skills Programme for example). Planning is sound and pupils are encouraged to develop socially, emotionally and physically. He commented favourably on the use of cross-curricular links

and our Global Fortnight. Pupils are encouraged to develop leadership skills through PE. There are good PE facilities including a well equipped play area for EYFS.

4. **Leadership and Management of PE**

This is good overall, with an experienced subject leader who co-ordinates provision affectively and meticulously. There is a very strong and cohesive programme with the local Sports Partnership and staff receives appropriate guidance and training which has raised pupils' achievement. This provision is supported well by the Headteacher who endorses efforts to raise levels of physical fitness, promotes competition and increasing PE time. PE has been used particularly to promote community cohesion and inclusion in the school. There is an emphasis on integration, celebrating similarities and developing a common ethos which has proved successful. There is good capacity to support further improvement.

5. **PE Contribution to Every Child Matters**, particularly 'being healthy'.

PE provision considers health in its widest sense and sets out to improve social, emotional and physical well-being. Healthy Schools and Activemark accreditation recognises the schools successes in this. The pupils say they enjoy and achieve well in PE. The pupils make a positive contribution to the school community and learn a range of key skills including safe practice, team work and evaluation skills.

**Areas for Improvement**

1. Improving achievement of the most able girls (who the Inspector identified as achieving less well than the boys).
2. Closing the 'gap' between pupil's knowledge and understanding of PE and their practical skills.
3. Ensuring pupil's reach the recommended swimming standard (25m) by the end of Key Stage 2.

I hope you find this summary useful. If any parent/carer would like to read the full report which is not published in the same way as a full Ofsted Inspection Report, please see me. We found it a very useful day and it supports our continued drive to raise standards across the whole curriculum

Andy Herbert  
(Headteacher)

**N.B.**

**Request to parents** - can you please make sure your children come to school suitably dressed for the current weather conditions. A change of shoes may also be useful. As we all know, children need to be dressed in warm clothes (coats, hats gloves and scarves). I understand from the weather forecast that there is more snow expected towards the end of the week and over the weekend. The playground has been treated in potentially hazardous areas, but you still need to be aware that there may be other areas that are slippery and 'high heels' may not be a good idea to wear at this time.