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Mr M Hilton  
Headteacher  
Penketh Community Primary School  
Coniston Avenue  
Penketh  
Warrington  
WA5 2QY

Dear Mr Hilton

### **Ofsted 2011–12 subject survey inspection programme: physical education (PE)**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils, during my visit on 4 November 2011 to look at work in PE.

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 without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: interviews with staff and pupils; scrutiny of relevant documentation; and observation of three lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PE is outstanding.

### **Achievement in PE**

Achievement in PE is good.

- Children enter the Early Years Foundation Stage with physical skills that are typical for children of that age. They make satisfactory progress and by the end of Year 2, their attainment is average. In Key Stage 2, pupils' progress accelerates. Both boys and girls make good progress and by the end of Year 6, their attainment has risen to above average. Pupils make similar progress in all four strands of the PE National Curriculum. A small number of pupils have gained representative honours in sport at national level. All pupils can swim the expected 25 metres by the end of Key Stage 2. The school's monitoring shows that recent emphasis on improving pupils' fitness has been successful and overall is now good.
- Pupils say that they enjoy all aspects of PE. They have a good understanding of healthy lifestyles. Pupils work exceptionally well together

and show a high level of maturity and independence. Their behaviour and attitudes to learning in PE lessons are outstanding. In dance, pupils use their imagination well and confidently create their own dances based on the skills they have learnt. A high proportion of pupils in all year groups, including the Early Years Foundation Stage, engage in a wide range of extra-curricular physical activity and sport by attending out-of-school clubs.

### **Quality of teaching in PE**

The quality of teaching in PE is good.

- Teachers promote PE and school sport very well. Staff training and new appointments have improved the quality of teaching over recent years. Teaching is strongest in Key Stage 2, where some is outstanding. A recent focus on gymnastics has given teachers a much better understanding of how to improve pupils' gymnastic skills. Senior leaders acknowledge that some teachers lack subject knowledge of how to develop pupils' key skills in games.
- Relationships between teachers and pupils are excellent and help to promote a positive climate for learning. Lessons are planned well with good emphasis on promoting pupils' fitness and developing key skills.
- Although some teachers use information and communication technology (ICT) to illustrate skills and techniques and to enable pupils to evaluate their own performance and that of others, not all of them take the opportunities to improve pupils' learning through the use of ICT.

### **Quality of the curriculum in PE**

The quality of the curriculum in PE is outstanding.

- The curriculum is planned exceptionally well and ensures continuity and progression in pupils' learning. It is supplemented by many tournaments and competitions for pupils of all abilities. Sports weeks engage pupils exceptionally well in a range of activities. All pupils have access to at least two hours of planned PE each week and more time is often included with fitness programmes such as 'Fit Kids' and 'Take Ten'. Playgrounds have been redesigned to encourage pupils to participate at lunchtime in a variety of games and activities. Leadership is promoted very effectively by giving pupils opportunities to organise matches, coach others and officiate.
- Very strong links with local schools and sports clubs ensure that higher attaining pupils are given many opportunities to extend their skills. PE and school sport are often used exceptionally well to improve the confidence and self-esteem of those pupils with social and emotional problems or physical disabilities. All Key Stage 2 pupils train towards, and take part in a 'mini-marathon'. The school reports that since its introduction, the amount of exercise undertaken by pupils has increased and this has improved their fitness. The extensive swimming programme enables all pupils to experience a variety of activities, including water safety and personal survival. Sports coaches are sometimes used to teach lessons and help

with staff training. They are carefully monitored by senior leaders to ensure that they engage well with the pupils and their coaching is of the highest quality.

### **Effectiveness of leadership and management in PE**

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PE is outstanding.

- The outstanding contribution that you and the deputy headteacher make to promoting PE is central to pupils' good achievement and strong personal development. Your shared enthusiasm for PE and sport inspires staff and pupils and has strengthened previous provision. Consequently, pupils' learning in lessons is good and improving.
- The system for monitoring pupils' progress provides teachers with an effective and manageable way of measuring their achievement and ensures that tasks are matched closely to pupils' needs. The monitoring of teachers' assessments, observations of pupils in lessons and use of recorded material is excellent. The analysis of pupils' views and very effective use of achievement information enable all senior leaders to have an accurate view of the school's strengths and areas for development.

### **Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:**

- improving teachers knowledge and understanding of how to teach pupils' key skills in games
- using ICT more effectively to illustrate skills and techniques and to enable pupils to evaluate their own performance and that of others.

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

As explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

**Roy Bowers**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**