

Christ Church Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100028
Local Authority	Camden
Inspection number	276238
Inspection dates	27–28 April 2006
Reporting inspector	Gordon Ewing

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	4–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr Geoffrey Palmer Mrs Linda Carter
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Hampstead Christ Church Hill NW3 1JH
Telephone number	02074351361
Fax number	02077945148

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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

The school is smaller than average. It draws pupils from a wide area with a significant number from socially advantaged backgrounds. The majority of pupils have White British heritage and 25% speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities is below the national average. The number of pupils entitled to free school meals is well below average. A significant proportion of the teaching staff has changed in the last two years. The school site is very cramped and space is at a premium.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade:

What the school should do to improve further

* to refine target setting of pupils' learning and to track more effectively their progress over time.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching and learning are good overall. This mirrors the school's own judgement. Lessons seen during the inspection varied from satisfactory to outstanding. The outstanding pupil attitudes and behaviour and the excellent support of the school leadership contribute significantly to the impact of teaching on the standards achieved. Teachers plan their lessons very thoroughly and ensure that activities are matched to the needs of different pupils. Teachers make lessons enjoyable. For example, in an English lesson, pupils delighted in preparing and performing poems for the whole class.

Good use is made of interactive whiteboards to demonstrate and explain difficult concepts, for example in science. In most classes staff have very good control and relationships are friendly and support learning. Pupils are frequently encouraged to evaluate their own work and that of others and consider the next steps in their learning and this is helping them develop as independent learners. Support staff promote pupils' learning very effectively, particularly those with learning difficulties.

However, there are some inconsistencies in teaching. Occasional variation in the pace of lessons and the effectiveness of behaviour management, can mean that some pupils do not always listen attentively or concentrate as well as they might. Teachers' marking is often very thorough and helps pupils see how to improve their work. However, this is not consistent throughout the school.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is outstanding: broad, balanced and relevant to pupils' needs. A very well planned blend of topic work and an effective programme of literacy, mathematics and science teaching results in very high standards. The school is rightly proud of its creative work. Additional funding has been used to ensure that pupils have rich opportunities to work with artists, musicians, actors and dancers. These all make a significant contribution to the overall development of every child and help to make school a very enjoyable experience. Music is a particular strength of the school and many pupils become accomplished and confident performers. Numerous visits to places of worship, museums and other places of interest significantly enrich the curriculum.

A very good range of extra-curricular activities also provides additional opportunities for pupils to learn new skills and work together. The school's programme for personal, social and health education and special events such as Citizenship Week and Black History Month develop pupils' understanding of the wider world and help them become mature and responsible young citizens.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The school provides excellent care, guidance and support. Each and every pupil is known, valued and supported by staff. Pupils' welfare is given a high priority and the very good level of adult supervision helps pupils feel safe and secure. The arrangements for child protection are very good. Procedures for ensuring pupils' health and safety are good. The school works very hard to ensure that pupils understand how to live a safe and healthy life, and has been successful in gaining the Healthy Schools' award.

There are good procedures for assessment. Most teachers ensure that pupils evaluate their own learning and consider the next steps they need to take to improve their work. Pupils' progress is carefully tracked, but procedures are not sufficiently systematic to ensure that targets are clearly understood by all pupils and frequently monitored and updated. The school is aware of this and has plans to improve its systems. Pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities are very well supported through various interventions and their progress is very closely monitored. This contributes significantly to the outstanding progress they make.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Annex B**Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection****Pupils**

You will remember that we visited your school recently for two days. I am writing, on behalf of the inspectors, to tell you what we found out about your school. We would like to thank you for making us feel very welcome and for talking to us about your school. We were very impressed with the comments you made and it is very clear that you think very highly of your school and that you enjoy your learning enormously.

The things we think that are special about your school are: * The good progress you make through the school and the outstanding results you achieve by the end of Year 6. * The school is very well led by Mrs Carter and her staff and they clearly work very hard to make it even better for you. * Your school provides you with lots of very interesting and exciting things to do, including after-school clubs, arts activities and visits. * The adults in school look after you and help and support you as you grow. You told us that you feel safe and happy in school and that you know the adults will always help you if you are upset or worried. * The school helps you develop into courteous, considerate and motivated young people. * This is a very happy school and your parents and carers speak highly of it.

We think your school could be even better if your teachers: • improve how they set your targets for learning and check on these regularly so that you make even more progress over time. We are confident that you will continue to enjoy life in your outstanding school and that you will continue to help your teachers as much as you can.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Ewing

Lead Inspector