

Christ Church School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100029
Local Authority	Camden
Inspection number	276239
Inspection dates	6-7 July 2006
Reporting inspector	Nick Butt

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	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr Andrew Dowell Ms Paula Aitcheson - Walker (Acting)
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Redhill Street London NW1 4BD
Telephone number	02073877881
Fax number	02073883646

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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

This average sized school serves an urban area near Euston Station. Two thirds of pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds, the largest groups being Bangladeshi and Black African. Three fifths of pupils speak English as an additional language. The school draws pupils mainly from two housing estates with high levels of overcrowding. One third of pupils are eligible for free school meals, much higher than is found in most schools. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is around average. The school has the Investors in People Award. At the time of the inspection the school had an acting headteacher pending the appointment of a new permanent one.

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

- * Provide sufficient challenge to enable all the more able pupils to attain high standards.
- * Increase the curriculum time given to physical education.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching and learning are good. Pupils enjoy learning and make good progress. Relationships are warm, positive and encouraging and teachers make their lessons interesting and fun. Younger pupils particularly enjoyed discussing a range of pictures and preparing 'reports' on the life of Crimean War heroine Mary Seacole. Although most pupils make good progress, those who find learning easier are not always sufficiently challenged and their progress is satisfactory. Boys have made better progress in writing this year because teaching has focussed on motivating them and allowing sufficient time for them to grasp and develop[s2] their ideas. Planning is detailed, thorough and flexible. Resources are attractive, good quality and used well. Teachers use their accurate knowledge of how well pupils are progressing to adapt their lessons to meet their needs. The way pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities are identified and supported is outstanding. Pupils who speak English as an additional language are taught well and in ways that help them to learn quickly.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is good. It is broad and balanced and meets all statutory requirements. Teachers are flexible and creative and generally adapt the curriculum well to meet the needs and interests of individual pupils. However, more able pupils are not always challenged or extended sufficiently. Pupils benefit greatly from the flexibility of laptop computers, which are used well to promote skills in information and communication technology and other subjects. There are some good links between subjects, especially in English and mathematics. For example, Year 3 pupils used Venn diagrams to compare and contrast story characters. Too little time is allocated to physical education so that progress is only satisfactory despite good teaching. The curriculum is well enriched by many enjoyable experiences that draw well on local resources, such as visits to museums and galleries, residential trips, visitors and after school clubs. These successfully extend pupils' learning and build up their self confidence.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

Care, guidance and support are good. The school's caring ethos contributes well to pupils' good progress, personal development and enjoyment. Relationships throughout the school are warm, positive and encouraging. One pupil said, 'There is always a good rapport with staff'. The identification and support of pupils who are vulnerable or have learning difficulties and disabilities are outstanding. These pupils benefit greatly from effective and diligent leadership and management. Pupils are generally taught well about healthy lifestyles, but this is hampered by a lack of time for physical education. Systems for ensuring pupils safety and protection are effective but some training in this area needs renewing. Pupils are well informed about their progress and the next steps for learning. This is achieved through effective discussion with teachers and the successful use of marking, which has improved markedly since the last inspection. Pupils who learn English as an additional language are well supported[s3].

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Pupils

Thank you very much for making us so welcome at your school. We did enjoy visiting. We were very impressed with your outstanding behaviour and way that you all care for one another so well. It is a good school and going from strength to strength. There are many things that are good about your school, and here are some of them: * The good progress you make as you move through the school. * The good teaching, which makes lessons interesting and fun. * The way the school council helps to improve playground games and tells the teachers what you think. * The artwork around the school, and the wonderful singing. * The way the school has a strong set of Christian values that you all respect. * The outstanding provision for those of you who find work more difficult. * The happy atmosphere in the school, and the way everybody is well cared for.

We don't think there's much wrong with your school, but we do feel that those of you who find work easier could be given more challenging things to do. We also think you don't get enough physical education lessons. We know you did lots of dancing on the day we were in, but that only happens on one day a year! Your teachers welcome your ideas, so see if you can work with them to fit in more PE, especially as we know you want to become a Healthy School.

Many thanks once again for letting us know your views and for being so friendly. Your school is very special and the staff work very hard to make it like that.

Yours sincerely

Mr. N. Butt

Lead Inspector