

Woodhill Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100145
Local Authority	Greenwich
Inspection number	276258
Inspection dates	24–25 April 2006
Reporting inspector	Andrew Howe

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

Type of school	Primary
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	3–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr A T Reed Mr Alastair McMeckan
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Woodhill London SE18 5JE
Telephone number	020 8854 5055
Fax number	020 8854 2296

Age group	3–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by three Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

This larger than average primary school serves an area of high deprivation in South London. About two thirds of pupils are entitled to free school meals. Over half the pupils are from minority ethnic groups, about a fifth coming from Black African backgrounds. Over a third of pupils are in the early stages of learning English. About half of the pupils have learning difficulties. The proportion of pupils who enter and leave the school other than at the usual times is above average. The school has achieved a number of awards including Investors in People, the Basic Skills Quality Mark, the Artsmark Gold award and Activemark.

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

- Raise standards attained by pupils in English and mathematics at the end of Year 2.
- Improve the quality of teaching so that it is consistently good throughout the school.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

The quality of teaching and learning is good overall. Outstanding teaching was observed in three of the lessons, but otherwise varied between good and satisfactory. In many lessons pupils make rapid progress due to the clarity of objectives, high expectations, brisk pace of work and challenging tasks which extend pupils' learning and excite their interest. All teachers plan lessons carefully with an emphasis on developing pupils' speaking and listening skills, increasing their confidence and helping them to see learning as fun. Pupils with learning difficulties and those in the early stages of learning English receive good support which enables them to make good progress. Where teaching is less effective, particularly in Years 1 and 2, the pace of lessons is too slow and expectations are insufficiently challenging. Teachers do not always make the best use of time or manage behaviour effectively, which slows pupils' learning. Teachers are very conscientious in marking pupils' work and comments are evaluative and helpful. This good practice contributes to pupils' increasing ability to evaluate and correct their own work.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is excellent. It is broad, balanced and relevant to pupils' needs. Teachers provide a range of interesting work, so that lessons are really enjoyable. The school has obtained a number of curriculum awards, such as the Basic Skills Quality Mark and the Artsmark Gold award. These exemplify a commitment both to developing all pupils' basic literacy and numeracy as well as their creative and physical potential. There is very good provision for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), which contributes to pupils' confidence and the good relationships observed during the inspection. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) makes a useful contribution to pupils' learning in other subjects, such as science.

Staff plan carefully to ensure children in the Foundation Stage have opportunities for outdoor play, but current necessary health and safety measures, adopted as result of the school's dilapidated roof, are tending to compromise provision. The school is doing all it can to resolve the situation.

The provision of extra-curricular activities is outstanding and contributes significantly to pupils' enjoyment and positive attitudes towards school. Additional activities for parents, such as Yoga classes, also help to develop positive relationships between home and school. The curriculum is greatly enriched through many visits to museums, galleries and places of worship. Visitors with various talents and skills also extend pupils' interests and motivation. During the inspection a musical duo featuring a sousaphone and clarinet delighted and inspired pupils. Music and the arts generally are particularly strong features of the curriculum which pupils enjoy.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The school provides outstanding care, guidance and support for pupils, so that pupils know what they need to do to improve their work and receive additional help according to their needs. Health and safety arrangements and child protection procedures are very good. Staff are fully aware of their responsibilities for pupils' welfare. Pupils have great confidence in their teachers and other members of the school staff, who know them very well. All staff receive training in identifying vulnerable pupils. Comprehensive measures provide very good support for these children. The school liaises very effectively with a range with outside agencies to ensure they get the help they need.

There are very good assessment procedures in place in all classes which help staff to set targets and plan work that is appropriate to the needs of all pupils. There is a very strong commitment to the inclusion of all pupils in the work of the school. Those with learning difficulties or disabilities and those pupils who are in the early stages of learning English are quickly assessed and appropriate support is provided, both in and outside class, to enable their participation in all aspects of learning.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Pupils

Thank you for sharing your views of the school with us when we visited a little while ago. We enjoyed our time with you, and we promised to let you know what we decided after our visit.

You told us what a caring place Woodhill Primary School is, and how there is always someone you can go to if you have a problem. You were quite right. Teachers and helpers take excellent care of you, and do a great deal to help you learn and stay safe. Your school council means you can have a say in how the school runs, and it has helped bring about some real improvements. Right through from the nursery and reception classes to Year 6, you behave well. You make good progress. Those of you who find learning hard, or who speak a language other than English at home, get good help. Many of the lessons we saw were good. You clearly enjoyed them. You work hard, because teachers try to make learning fun. There are a lot of interesting activities you can do at school outside class, such as clubs and school trips.

There are some things the school could do to improve further, however: * Raise standards for children by the age of 7; * Make sure that all lessons are good or better. Woodhill Primary School is a good school with some excellent features. If you continue to work as hard, and behave as well as you do now, it could become even better.

Good wishes for the future

Andrew Howe

(Lead inspector)