

Dulwich Village Church of England Infants' School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100823
Local Authority	Southwark
Inspection number	276394
Inspection dates	15–16 November 2005
Reporting inspector	Christopher Gray

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

Type of school	Infant
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	4–7
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Reverend Johnathan Winter Mrs Ali Silke
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Dulwich Village London SE21 7AL
Telephone number	02075259233
Fax number	02075259235

Age group	4–7
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by three additional inspectors.

Description of the school

The school is of a similar size to most schools. The percentage of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds is higher than is found in most schools. No pupil is at the early stages of learning English. Most pupils come from homes whose socio-economic circumstances are favourable. The proportion of pupils entitled to a free school meal is low. The percentage of pupils with learning difficulties is small, though the proportion of pupils with a statement of particular needs is higher than in most schools. Children's attainment on entry to school is above what is expected. The school occupies a split site. The buildings are separated by a distance of 300 yards and a main road. One of its buildings is very old and cramped.

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

* implement fully the plans to increase the ratio of computers for pupils to use and raise standards in ICT.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Pupils learn so effectively because teachers base their lesson plans firmly on what they know about pupils' prior attainment. Teachers and teaching assistants evaluate lessons on a daily basis, to tailor the next day's learning closely to pupils' needs. The arrangements for grouping in English and mathematics are an example of this and they work well. Pupils learn at a rate that suits them best because they are taught in such small groups by teachers and their assistants. An example of outstanding learning was seen in a science lesson for Year 1 pupils. Pupils of this age often find the distinction between the forces of pushing and pulling unclear. The teacher used a video of a big range of movements, asking the pupils to spot which force was being used. She then extended their vocabulary effectively with a variety of new words, such as 'twist', enabling them to see easily which of the two forces was involved.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is good and is enriched by a range of additional educational activities which enhance learning. The outstanding support for pupils' personal and social development means they are developing a real understanding of choices of lifestyle. The curriculum is well-planned and managed to meet the differing needs in the school, enabling all groups of pupils to achieve well. There is good emphasis on literacy and numeracy, with appropriate inclusion of other subjects, so that pupils' skills for life are being built up well. The curriculum is also enriched with lessons in philosophy to help pupils learn to debate with each other, respond respectfully to others' views and offer their own ideas. The provision for physical education and music is supported effectively by the work of visiting specialists, and a range of extra-curricular activities has been introduced for older pupils. ICT is used well to support learning in other subjects, which enables pupils to develop their computer skills, despite the relatively small number of computers currently available.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

Many of the procedures to ensure pupils' welfare are exemplary, as is seen in the mature sense of responsibility shown by the pupils. Child protection procedures are carefully followed by all, so that any vulnerable pupils are supported tactfully and effectively. Health and safety procedures are thorough as are risk assessments. A very caring ethos, excellent relationships and comprehensive induction arrangements greatly help pupils to settle quickly into the school. Strategies to promote good behaviour and deal with any bullying are particularly creative and result in pupils' excellent attitudes and understanding of why they need to behave well. Assessment data are used very effectively in matching work to pupils' needs. More able pupils and those with learning difficulties are quickly identified and very well supported, so that they achieve as well as other pupils.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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

We, the inspectors, enjoyed visiting your school this week and want to thank you for the very friendly way you welcomed us and shared your work with us. We liked the way so many of you came up to talk to us and we were pleased to see how sensible all of you are when you walk between the two buildings. You work very hard in lessons and we could see how much you enjoy them.

The school takes great care of all of you and you share in this sense of looking after people. We saw this in the behaviour assemblies, which were enjoyed by everyone there - particularly the special cheers. We are still wondering what a "marshmallow" cheer is. The school also helps you to keep healthy and many of you told us how you do this. We thought it a good idea that the school council asked for healthy puddings in school dinners while also keeping "treats" for Fridays.

Your headteacher and her staff do an excellent job in running such a successful school and you play an equal part in this. There are no big changes that need to be made because staff are always looking for ways to make the school even better. There is a shortage of computers, but there are plans for a new computer suite to be set up some time after Christmas. We hope you enjoy using it and become even better at ICT.