

Church Hill School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	101266
Local Authority	Barnet
Inspection number	276481
Inspection dates	15–16 May 2006
Reporting inspector	Mike Smith

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	4–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr Martin Last Ms Rebecca Mottershead
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Burlington Rise East Barnet Barnet EN4 8NN
Telephone number	02083683431
Fax number	02083681602

Age group	4–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

Church Hill is an average sized community primary school in East Barnet. Pupils come from a broad socio-economic background. A few pupils are from different minority ethnic groups and the proportion learning English as an additional language is currently very low. A small number of pupils are eligible for free school meals. A larger than average number of pupils have learning difficulties or a statement of education needs. The headteacher was appointed in September 2005.

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

- * Create more opportunities to share the best teaching practice across the school.
- * Improve standards further by prioritising the identified areas for improvement.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching is good, and as a result pupils do well in their lessons as all staff work effectively together to ensure that work is well matched to their individual learning needs and challenging targets. This ensures there is good progression in their learning. Relationships between staff and pupils are excellent, as is the behaviour and attitudes of the pupils to their learning. Although teaching is good overall, including in the Foundation Stage, there are examples of outstanding practice. Support staff ensure that all pupils fully participate in lesson activities and their independent learning skills are encouraged. Pupil assessment is increasingly well used to inform teacher's planning and there is regular monitoring and evaluation of lessons by senior staff where supportive feedback is given. The excellent practice observed could be shared more widely across the school. In these outstanding lessons, a wide range of stimulating and motivating activities are dynamically delivered with effective use of resources to ensure that pupils' needs were carefully met. There is effective monitoring and evaluation of pupil progress and achievement and it is made very clear to pupils how they may improve. There is a positive ethos of reward and celebration in lessons where learning is made fun and where expectations are high.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The school has a good, and balanced curriculum that covers all subjects well and meets the needs of all learners, from the Foundation Stage onwards. The creative arts are particularly well catered for, alongside good provision for the learning of key skills. This includes information and communication technology (ICT), where the provision is currently undergoing significant improvement. The school has recently placed greater emphasis on progression in learning, as pupils move up the school. Teachers are using what they know about pupils' attainment to organise group activities so that all pupils make good progress in lessons. This is already having an impact on standards, and is making learning more interesting and relevant. One pupil said, 'lessons are great, you get to learn all sorts of interesting things'. The taught curriculum is further enriched by a good range of extra curricular activities. For example, French club, yoga, multi-sports, and football. School journeys, including extended visits such as that to Exmoor

for Year 6 pupils, are much appreciated. Concerts and performances are a regular feature. The school band offers scope to play almost any orchestral instrument, and produces a splendid sound. The inspectors really enjoyed band practice at lunchtime. Activities such as these contribute significantly to the ethos of the school and its feeling of community.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The school provides a good level of care, guidance and support. It places the individual pupil at the heart of everything it does and expectations are high. Good teamwork ensures that the individual needs of all pupils are met and targets are carefully matched to their needs and interests. Academic, personal and social progress are monitored, assessed and increasingly used to plan the next stage of development. Parents are very complimentary about the school and appreciate the good communication between the school and themselves. One parent said, 'the school is outstanding in terms of the care and well being of the child and we receive information about everything'.

The school has created a warm, friendly, learning environment in which pupils are feel safe and can thrive. Pupils say that 'adults are friendly, they listen to us and they look after us'. The arrangements for child protection are well managed and risk assessments for continued pupil safety are efficiently carried out. A wide range of school opportunities enhances and develops pupils' confidence and independence and effectively prepares them for their next stage of learning.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Pupils

We really enjoyed visiting your school and I would like to thank you for making us feel so welcome. I would particularly like to thank the School Council for telling me all about their activities and the school band for making lunch break so entertaining.

There were many things we liked about your school: * You, and your parents and carers are right to think that you go to a good school. * Your behaviour is excellent and you really enjoy your lessons. You work hard and make good progress as a result of the good teaching and the support you get in lessons. * Your teachers and support staff work really hard to make sure your different needs are met and they make sure you are safe at all times. * Your headteacher runs the school really well and has helped to improve lots of things that make your life in school so enjoyable. * You have lots of interesting trips out of school and other activities after school that you enjoy attending. * Your school knows what it is good at and how it can improve even more.

There are two important things the school can do to make it even better: * The outstanding teaching in some of your lessons can be shared between teachers more effectively. * All the areas that the school wants to improve must have a positive effect on your learning and progress.

Once again, thank you for your help and making our visit such a pleasant one.

Mr M Smith

Lead inspector