



Cockwood Primary School

Inspection Report - Amended

Unique Reference Number 113194
Local Authority Devon
Inspection number 289542
Inspection date 13 September 2006
Reporting inspector Laurie Lewin

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

Type of school	Primary	School address	Cockwood
School category	Community		Starcross
Age range of pupils	4-11		Exeter EX6 8RB
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Telephone number	01626 890471
Number on roll (school)	73	Fax number	01626 891425
Appropriate authority	The governing body	Chair	S Parsons
		Headteacher	R Crook
Date of previous school inspection	12 February 2006		

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Amended Report Addendum

Report updated to resolve formatting inconsistency

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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one Additional Inspector.

Description of the school

This is a small school. The pupils come from a mixture of private and local authority housing in the area and generally show attainment that matches the expected levels when they start school. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is below average. All pupils in the school come from White British cultural backgrounds. The school has won many prestigious awards for its standards and achievements.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 1

'An excellent school from top to bottom ... every child is made to feel important and thereby achieves his or her full potential'. This comment from one parent echoes the views of most parents and is confirmed by the inspection. All aspects of the school are outstanding and it has gone from strength to strength since it was last inspected. Top quality leadership and management and excellent teaching result in high standards and outstanding achievement by the pupils. Children in the Foundation Stage get off to a great start because of the excellent provision for them in Reception. By the time they start Year 1, many of them are reaching above the expected levels. Staff are extremely skilled in moulding the curriculum in the best possible way to suit the needs of all groups of pupils. As a result, pupils show a great deal of enjoyment in their work and display high levels of enthusiasm and motivation. By Year 6, pupils excel in English, mathematics and science, but discussions with them about their work also indicate that they do very well in other subjects such as information and communication technology (ICT), art and geography.

It would be difficult to make the provision for pupils' support, care and guidance any better; it is exemplary. When coupled with the excellent teaching, this results in pupils developing into well adjusted, mature and caring individuals whose behaviour is exemplary. Pupils become very confident and develop highly motivated attitudes. They learn to lead healthy lifestyles through the daily morning exercise routines, a good range of sports activities and the strong focus on healthy eating promoted by the school. They have a full say in school development and projects carried out in conjunction with the local community. As a result, they acquire very mature attitudes and lots of confidence. Knowing that their opinions and efforts are always valued. They feel safe and secure, partly as a result of the very positive relationships that they have with the staff and each other. Through their school council, pupils acquire a good understanding of working together to improve their community. By the time they leave, pupils are armed with high level skills to help them move on successfully in all that they do.

Many of those who work with or visit the school note the highly positive and 'magical' feel that it exudes, which is reflected in the way staff and governors constantly strive for further improvement. For example, not content with the results placing the school in the top 5% of schools nationally, the staff have rightly identified pupils' slightly lower attainment in writing as an issue, and are planning action to remedy this. A major touchstone of success in the school is the very strong commitment and team spirit displayed by the staff and governors. They are resourceful and make sure any necessary changes take place. Plans for future developments, based on extremely rigorous self-evaluation, are often inspired and imaginative. As a result, the school's track record of very good improvement has plenty of scope for being maintained in the future.

What the school should do to improve further

- Increase the range of opportunities for pupils to extend their writing skills across the curriculum.

Achievement and standards

Grade: 1

Pupils' achievement is outstanding. Test results and the work they currently produce confirm that they reach very high standards. From Reception through to Year 6 standards have continued to rise over recent years. Within the spectrum of high performance, writing is the area of relative weakness correctly identified by the school and vigorously targeted within improvement plans. The school continually sets itself challenging targets for pupils' performance and is successful in reaching and sometimes exceeding these. Pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities make excellent progress.

Personal development and well-being

Grade: 1

Pupils' personal development including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. Their attendance at school is good. They thrive on the interesting diet of work they are given and the strong support they receive. One parent commented that her children enjoyed school so much that, at the end of a holiday period, they could hardly wait for the term to start. This captures the ethos of the school, with its welcoming, caring and friendly atmosphere. Multicultural theme weeks, input from a wide range of visitors and their in depth studies of environmental and conservation issues give pupils a very broad understanding about and a reflective approach towards the world around them.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade: 1

Outstanding teaching has enabled the pupils in the school to reach a 'rare atmosphere' of high performance across a wide area. Importantly, the teaching is highly successful in accelerating pupils' progress in their academic and personal development. Teachers show a great deal of skill in using all available resources to enhance learning. Their use of assessment information is sophisticated, enabling a fine grain diagnosis of pupils' needs, which is then translated into really good support. Within this support the teaching assistants play an excellent role providing close up one-to-one help for individuals and very proficient guidance for groups as appropriate. Plans for lessons are equally sophisticated in terms of catering precisely for pupils of different abilities and age ranges. Year 6 pupils say ... 'Our teachers are really fun ... and always

encourage us as much as possible'. They sum up very well what makes teaching 'tick' in this school.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade: 1

Staff provide a high quality curriculum. The excellent provision for reception age group children ensures they have a strong basis to build on. Working closely together, staff constantly review and adapt the curriculum to suit the needs of the pupils, always searching for newer ways to make the activities more relevant and exciting. In particular, they ensure curriculum areas are linked as much as possible to increase the efficiency of teaching time. Standards in writing are slightly lower than they could be because opportunities to extend pupils' writing skills across the curriculum are not always emphasised enough. ICT resources are used in a highly efficient way to enhance learning. An excellent range of extra activities, trips, visits and visitors to the school further enhances the repertoire and variation in learning for pupils.

Care, guidance and support

Grade: 1

The care, guidance and support that pupils receive are outstanding. Through constant, rigorous monitoring staff have a very keen awareness of the needs of all individuals. This is a school where seldom a cross word is heard, with the focus rather on full and very positive encouragement of all individuals. The expectations of staff for the behaviour and development of the pupils are set high. The pupils know this and respond accordingly by trying their best. Assessment systems are made transparent and translated into very clear targets and guidance, so that all pupils have a full understanding of how to improve their work. The school maintains all of the necessary procedures to ensure the continuing health and safety of its pupils in a highly efficient manner.

Leadership and management

Grade: 1

The outstanding leadership and management of the school are successful in enabling high standards to be reached by the pupils. The school evaluates its own performance rigorously and monitors all activities in detail. The inspection shows the school in an even better light than its own self-evaluation, but this is due to the school taking an overly modest and slightly cautious view about the outcomes of its achievements.

The previous headteacher, who has only just moved to another school, created a climate in which all of those linked to the school work enthusiastically to make this an excellent environment for the pupils. This has meant that pupils, parents, staff and governors and all those who work with the school have a shared clarity of vision, sense of purpose and high aspirations for improving the provision and quality of education. The current acting headteacher shows a skilful and determined approach. Because he

was the headteacher of the school in past times, but has continued working with the school part time, he is the ideal candidate to maintain the continuity and powerful forward drive in the interim while the governors recruit a new person for the job.

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Inspection judgements

Key to judgements: grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory, and grade 4 inadequate	School Overall
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Overall effectiveness

How effective, efficient and inclusive is the provision of education, integrated care and any extended services in meeting the needs of learners?	1
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being?	1
The quality and standards in the Foundation Stage	1
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	1
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	1
Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes

Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	1
The standards ¹ reached by learners	1
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners	1
How well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress	1

Personal development and well-being

How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the learners?	1
The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	1
The behaviour of learners	1
The attendance of learners	2
How well learners enjoy their education	1
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	1
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution to the community	1
How well learners develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being	1

The quality of provision

How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of the learners' needs?	1
How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners?	1
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	1

¹ Grade 1 - Exceptionally and consistently high; Grade 2 - Generally above average with none significantly below average; Grade 3 - Broadly average to below average; Grade 4 - Exceptionally low.

Leadership and management

How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?	1
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	1
How effectively performance is monitored, evaluated and improved to meet challenging targets	1
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can	1
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	1
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	1
Do procedures for safeguarding learners meet current government requirements?	Yes
Does this school require special measures?	No
Does this school require a notice to improve?	No

Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

I am writing to let you know how much I enjoyed coming to visit your outstanding school. Thank you for making me so welcome and helping me during the school inspection. I was really impressed by everything that I saw. Here are some of the things I noticed:

- You work very hard in lessons and show a lot of interest in all of the work.
- You reach high standards in English, mathematics and science and do well in many other subjects.
- Your school is one of the happiest and friendliest places I have been in and your behaviour is really excellent. Everybody is so polite and helpful.
- You like the way staff work with you a lot, and some of you told me that they work really hard to make lessons as much fun as possible. I think you are right – they do an excellent job.
- As well as your regular lessons, you really appreciate all of the extra, interesting and exciting activities that the school provides for you.
- The school does an excellent job of taking care of you.
- I was very impressed to see how much you know about the need to eat healthy foods and stay fit.
- The organisation of the school is excellent and helping you all to become very successful.

Although you reach high standards, there is still room for you to improve your writing. Your teachers have noticed that, too, and I have suggested they provide more opportunities for you to extend your writing skills in different subjects.

Thank you again for being so helpful and friendly. I hope you have a really good year at the school!