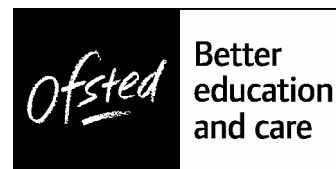


Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404040
F 020 7421 6855
www.ofsted.gov.uk



22 February 2007

Mrs S Sanderson
Headteacher
Swarcliffe Primary School
Swarcliffe Drive
Leeds
Yorkshire
LS14 5JW

Dear Mrs Sanderson

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Design and Technology

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 7 February 2007 to look at work in design and technology (D&T).

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions, but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half-term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with staff and pupils, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils work and observation of lessons.

Overall Judgement

The overall effectiveness of D&T was judged to be good.

Achievement and standards

- The well below average attainment on entry in the core subjects is reflected in standards of work in design and technology. Pupils in the reception and Year 1 classes start with limited practical skills and abilities. They make good progress and achieve well from this low starting point although standards overall are below what is normally found.
- Design and technology is making a good contribution to the personal development and well being of pupils. Attitudes to the subject are positive

and D&T is helping them acquire skills they can build on in their future lives.

- Pupils rise to the challenge of taking responsibility, for example the school council has taken a central role in the design of new play equipment for the school.

Quality of teaching and learning of D&T

The quality of teaching and learning is good.

- All staff are fully involved in the delivery of the subject including teaching assistants who run a lunchtime club.
- The teaching nearly always strikes the right balance between children finding out for themselves and being taught key knowledge and skills. Where it does not, pupils are less secure in their knowledge of tools and techniques.
- Assessment practice is improving and teachers are evaluating individual performance against National Curriculum levels. The school acknowledges the next stage is to share findings with pupils and is planning to do this.

Quality of curriculum

- A good curriculum structure using QCA units aligned to topic work is meeting the needs and interest of learners well.
- The ability to make progress from year to year has improved as a result.

Leadership and management of Design and Technology

- The subject is effectively led and the management capacity to ensure D&T thrives is good.
- The school has a sharply focussed view on how well the subject is performing and knows what needs to be done to make further improvements.

Inclusion

All groups of learners are fully included in the subject. Pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities are effectively supported and girls are performing equally as well as boys.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- ensuring subject knowledge and skills are consistently taught
- using assessment data to improve individual performance.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop D&T in the school. A copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Paul Hancock
Her Majesty's Inspector