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19 November 2007

Mrs J Young
Headteacher
Barton Primary School
Barton Hill Road
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Devon
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Dear Mrs Young

**Ofsted survey inspection programme of primary schools 2007/8
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during
my visit on 12 November 2007 to look at work in ICT.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of ICT, the visit
had a particular focus on the impact of ICT on whole-school improvement.

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
you and your assistant headteacher, your ICT co-ordinator, discussion with
Year 2 and Year 6 pupils, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of
pupils' work and observation of a Year 1 ICT/PE lesson in the hall and a Year
5 lesson in the computer suite.

The overall effectiveness of ICT was judged to be good.

Achievement and standards

Standards by Year 6 in ICT are in line with expectations and achievement is
good. The contribution to pupils' personal development and well-being is
good.

- Pupils enter school with standards that are below expectations. By Year
  6, standards are in line with expectations and pupils' achievement is
  good.
- Pupils have good basic skills. They use the mouse and keyboard with
  confidence and are able to log on, log off and access their work with
  confidence.

- ICT has a good impact on raising standards in other subjects. The rise in standards and achievement in 2007 show the impact that ICT is having on English, mathematics and science.
- Pupils enjoy using ICT. They work well together and are proud of their work. Year 6 pupils, especially, articulate an enjoyment of ICT and recognise that ICT is helping to improve their standards in a range of subjects.

Quality of teaching and learning

The quality of teaching and learning is good.

- Lessons are well planned and matched to the different groups of pupils, therefore ensuring good progress in lessons and over time.
- Teachers' subject knowledge is good.
- Teaching assistants give good support.
- Teachers and teaching assistants confidently use interactive whiteboards to support teaching and learning.
- Pupils are well managed and consequently work well together.
- A very recent audit of teachers and teaching assistants is being used to plan appropriate future training.
- Assessment procedures are good. However, as the school moves from a national scheme of work for ICT to one more closely integrated with the school's curriculum, the school recognises that there is a need to adapt assessment opportunities.
- Older pupils are beginning to self-assess against the learning objectives and have a good understanding of their targets for development. However, younger pupils are not clear about their individual targets.

Quality of the curriculum

The quality of the ICT curriculum is good.

- The programmes of study have been covered well through the use of a national scheme. This has very recently been adapted to meet the needs of the school and ICT coverage is good. However, links are not yet fully embedded across all aspects of the curriculum.
- There is a consistent approach to planning to ensure the profile of ICT is raised and have a impact on all subjects.
- Provision for pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is good. They make good progress in ICT.
- The subject is well resourced. The new ICT suite enables pupils to work at a computer each. This is having a positive impact on pupils' individual learning requirements.

Leadership and management of the subject

Leadership and management of ICT are good.

- The ICT co-ordinator has a clear vision for the subject and is fully supported by the senior management team and governors to implement this vision.
- The assistant headteacher has a very good knowledge of ICT and, especially, the use of interactive whiteboards to improve teaching and learning. He supports the co-ordinator well.
- There is a comprehensive action plan in place for ICT with measurable success criteria.
- Staff, parents and pupils are fully aware of the policy and agreement for safe use of the internet.

Subject issue - the impact of ICT on whole-school improvement

The impact of ICT on whole school improvement is good

- The use of ICT to raise standards in other subjects is good. Good examples were seen of ICT raising standards in literacy, mathematics, science, history, personal social and health education (PSHE) and physical education.
- Good use is being made of the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA) self review framework to evaluate the overall effectiveness of ICT. This is also providing a good indicator for the planned development of the subject.

Inclusion

- Good use is made of ICT to motivate pupils.
- The new computer suite is having a good impact on teaching and learning, which is raising standards and achievement.
- Good use is made of ICT to support pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The speech and language unit uses ICT well to support pupils' learning.
- Pupils with behaviour difficulties are motivated by ICT and consequently behave well in lessons.
- Gifted and talented pupils are given extra support through local authority initiatives.
- The new suite is beginning to have a beneficial impact on personal learning and is ensuring that pupils can now progress at their own pace.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included to:

- embed the new curriculum and continue to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness
- embed new assessment opportunities in order to track pupils' progress and to support pupils' knowledge of their progress and future targets.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop ICT in the school.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your Local Authority and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Green
Additional Inspector