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Mrs D Gage
Headteacher
Zetland Primary School
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Dear Mrs Gage

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Design and Technology

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 21 May 2008 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 learners, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of lessons.

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

Achievement and standards

Achievement is good and standards in D&T are satisfactory.

- Pupils start in the nursery with below average skills and capabilities in D&T. Their ability to problem solve, innovate, and use practical equipment is quickly developed in the foundation stage.
- Standards continue to rise in Key Stage 1 from this low starting point and reach average in Key Stage 2. The focus on learning through real contexts, for example exploring mechanisms for moving models of fire engines is a feature of the work in D&T. Another strength is the value placed on learning from each other through sharing and displays of work. The school knows capability to innovate when designing is not well advanced for many pupils and is making it a priority for improvement.

- D&T activities motivate pupils very well. They say D&T is one of the most enjoyable subjects they study and they respond to activities with enthusiasm.

Quality of teaching and learning

The quality of teaching and learning in D&T is good.

- Lessons are rigorously planned and questioning is effective. All staff work well together as a team to deliver D&T. Classes are well managed to secure good learning by pupils of all abilities.
- Pupils are provided with good individual help and support during practical work. The school is aware monitoring progress more closely and analysing assessment data to identify underachievement is central to improving quality.
- Assessments of pupils' D&T capability are routinely carried out and the school is exploring the practical implications of providing individual National Curriculum levels for all pupils.

Quality of the curriculum

The quality of the curriculum is good.

- D&T activities in the foundation stage meet the needs and interests of the children well. They have a good experience of a range of materials which they use well to explore and investigate.
- The curriculum is based upon national schemes of work produced by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Teachers have modified units of work and are well advanced in devising new projects following the school's recent curriculum review.
- The development of key design skills such as product analysis and innovation from an early age is a good feature of the work. Another feature is the use of visitors to bring design and make contexts to life, for example a lady dressed as a Viking and a local sculptor.

Leadership and management of D&T

Leadership and management of D&T are good.

- The school's management capacity to ensure D&T continues to thrive is good. You and your coordinator are making changes which are making a positive impact on achievement and standards.
- The school's own evaluation of how well the subject is doing is accurate and well evidenced through past and present work. Support staff are well deployed to help pupils learn during D&T activities

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- developing capability to create and innovate more effectively when designing
- monitoring individual progress more closely.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop design and technology in the school.

As I explained, 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

Paul Hancock
Her Majesty's Inspector