

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



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Mrs S Head
Headteacher
Valley Primary School
Beckenham Lane
Bromley
Kent
BR2 0DA

Dear Mrs Head

Ofsted 2011–12 best practice survey: design and technology

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 23 June 2011 to look at your work in design and technology.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our publication about best practice in design and technology. The publication will include case studies about individual providers. If your school is included as a case study, you will have an opportunity to comment before publication. Individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: interviews with staff and pupils; scrutiny of relevant documents; analysis of pupils' work; and observation of learning sessions in D&T throughout the school.

Overall, Valley Primary School is outstanding at design and technology.

Features of best practice

- All pupils find D&T activities hugely enjoyable because of the strong emphasis placed on the subject within the school's curriculum.
- All teachers make very effective use of 'process diaries' to support the teaching of well-planned nationally recognised units of work in D&T. Each 'process diary' provides a clear structure for pupils to fully explore the important stages of research and design to make products of quality.
- Each 'process diary' provides extensive opportunities for pupils to develop their literacy and numeracy skills when completing each unit of work.
- Assessment in D&T is outstanding. Teachers' marking within these 'process diaries' is of very high quality. Written comments are greatly valued by the pupils because teachers provide very clear guidance on what pupils need to do next to improve. All teachers use this information

to record the progress of each individual pupil in D&T. The collation of these 'process diaries' for each pupil provides a comprehensive record of their achievements in D&T.

- The subject leader makes very effective use of the information about pupils' progress in D&T to support self-evaluation and planning for further improvement in the subject.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- None identified.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop D&T at Valley Primary School.

As explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. A copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Philip Mann
Her Majesty's Inspector