Aviation House   **T** 0300 123 1231
125 Kingsway   **F** 020 7421 6855
London   enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
WC2B 6SE   www.ofsted.gov.uk

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Mr P Wilson
Headteacher
Old Bexley Church of England Primary School
Hurst Road
Bexley
DA5 3JR

Dear Mr Wilson

Ofsted 2011–12 subject survey inspection programme: information and communication technology (ICT)

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils, during my visit on 6 July 2011 to look at work in ICT.

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 without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: interviews with staff and pupils; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' work; joint observation of two lessons with your deputy headteacher; brief observations of parts of seven other lessons; and a tour of the school with pupils.

The overall effectiveness of ICT is outstanding.

Achievement in ICT

Achievement in ICT is outstanding.

■ Pupils enter the Early Years Foundation Stage with ICT skills which are generally in line with national expectations. They make good progress and enter Year 1 with standards that are above expectations. They make excellent progress from Years 1 to 6 and leave with standards that are well above national expectations in all strands of the ICT curriculum.

■ A particular strength is the support that pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, including those in the Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision, are given by teachers and well-informed teaching assistants. As a result, they make the same outstanding progress, against very specific targets, as other groups of pupils.

- Pupils who speak English as an additional language are also well supported and make the same progress as their peers.

- Pupils' behaviour when using ICT is outstanding. They support each other very well in lessons and are happy to share their knowledge with each other. Pupils respect equipment and use it with care.

- Pupils are very proud of their work, of their knowledge and skills, and of the outstanding progress they make in their ICT capabilities.

- By Year 2, pupils have a very good understanding of what they need to do to keep themselves safe when using new technologies at school and at home. By Year 6, pupils' understanding of how to keep safe is outstanding.

Quality of teaching in ICT

The quality of teaching in ICT is outstanding.

- The quality of teaching is outstanding overall and never less than good.

- Engaging teaching and well-resourced lessons result in pupils being extremely motivated.

- Planning is thorough and ensures that excellent links are made between a wide range of subjects.

- Very well-planned activities are designed to meet the needs of different groups of pupils.

- However, the school has identified the need to further challenge gifted and talented pupils to achieve above the present Level 5 'ceiling' in ICT.

- The use of assessment to inform planning is excellent and ensures work is matched to the individual needs of pupils.

Quality of the curriculum in ICT

The quality of the curriculum in ICT is outstanding.

- Excellent links are made between subjects through the development of the International Primary Curriculum (IPC).

- Lessons are given 'real life' context so that pupils are very aware of how ICT impacts in their everyday lives.

- ICT is having a significant impact on raising pupils' achievement in a range of subjects, their enterprise skills, and on their spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal development.

- Pupils enthusiastically embrace the use of new technologies for homework.

- However, the school recognises that its Managed Learning Environment (MLE) needs to be further developed to support pupils' learning at home as well as at school.

- Pupils who have limited access to new technologies and/or the internet at home are able to use new technologies at lunchtime for homework, research or to further develop their ICT skills.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in ICT

The effectiveness of leadership and management in ICT is outstanding.

■ Leadership and management of ICT are excellent and are having a significant impact on the development of the subject and the high standards achieved.

■ A very clear vision for the subject is shared by staff, pupils and governors.

■ The subject leader is given excellent support by all staff and the school's technician. There is a very strong team spirit among all staff for ICT.

■ Regular training for teachers and support staff is very effective.

■ The monitoring of teaching and learning in ICT is regular and rigorous. The strengths and areas for further development are clearly identified and informed by effective self-review. Self-evaluation is accurate.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

■ challenging pupils identified as gifted and talented to achieve above Level 5 in ICT

■ developing the MLE to enable pupils, teachers, governors and parents to access work and information to support pupils' learning at home as well as in school.

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

As I 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. Except in the case of academies, a copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Green
Additional Inspector