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17 October 2011

Mrs S Walker
Headteacher
Westwood Park Community Primary School
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Dear Mrs Walker

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 11 October 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; a tour of the school with pupils; analysis of pupils' work; and observation of four lessons.

The overall effectiveness of ICT is satisfactory.

Achievement in ICT

Achievement in ICT is satisfactory.

- Pupils enter the Early Years Foundation Stage with ICT capabilities that are well below national expectations. They make satisfactory progress throughout the school and, by the end of Year 6, leave with standards that are closer to national expectations.
- Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities are given good support by teachers and teaching assistants, and make the same satisfactory progress as other groups of pupils.
- Pupils behave well in lessons. They listen to each other and work well either in groups or independently.

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

Quality of teaching in ICT

The quality of teaching in ICT is good.

- Teaching is good overall. Teachers have good subject knowledge and plan and deliver lessons which engage and motivate pupils. Recent improvements in teaching are raising pupils' progress in lessons to good.
- Assessment, monitoring and tracking are at the early stages of development and are not sufficiently embedded to rigorously monitor the progress over time of all groups of pupils. The school recognises that this is an area for development.
- Relationships between staff and pupils are good. Teachers have good behaviour management skills and ensure a safe environment where pupils want to learn.
- The use of ICT to support learning across the school is satisfactory and improving. Pupils have good access to ICT and it is used appropriately in many lessons to develop their learning.

Quality of the curriculum in ICT

The quality of the curriculum in ICT is satisfactory.

- All pupils receive their entitlement to the statutory ICT National Curriculum. The curriculum has been recently reviewed and updated to increase pupils' interest and enthusiasm.
- There is a good emphasis on presenting information, communication and data-handling but the curriculum is less effective in the areas of control and data-logging.
- Good links are being developed between ICT, literacy, numeracy and foundation subjects. This is having a positive impact on pupils' achievement.
- The school has plans to develop a virtual learning environment (VLE) to enable better access for pupils.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in ICT

The effectiveness of leadership and management in ICT is good.

- The leadership team has a clear and shared understanding of areas for development. Although new to the role, the subject coordinator has quickly evaluated strengths and weaknesses and significant progress is being made to improve the outcomes for all pupils in ICT.
- The governing body is very supportive of the developments for ICT and has made a substantial financial commitment this year.

- Self-evaluation is accurate and the school has a good capacity to improve further.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- improving the quality of pupils' learning and their progress in ICT throughout the school by sharing best practice, to increase further the proportion of good or better teaching when using ICT
- embedding the use of newly introduced assessment and monitoring procedures, so as to more accurately monitor pupils' achievement
- improving the curriculum for ICT by developing the use of data-logging and control technology
- ensuring that the well considered plans for ICT are implemented.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop ICT in the 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 is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

David Brown
Additional Inspector