

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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Miss K Bell
Headteacher
Great Smeaton Academy Primary
School
Great Smeaton
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL6 2EQ

Dear Miss Bell

Ofsted 2011–12 subject survey inspection programme: art, craft and design

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils during my visit on 17 November 2011 to look at work in art, craft and design.

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 analysis of pupils' work; review of documentation; discussions with staff and pupils and observation of three lessons, including one lesson observed jointly with you.

The overall effectiveness of art, craft and design is good.

Achievement in art, craft and design

Achievement in art, craft and design is good.

- The breadth of interesting activities provided in the Early Years Foundation Stage helps children explore, make choices and develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in using different media and methods. As a result, they enter Year 1 having achieved well in their creative development.
- School assessment data, evidence from lessons observations and pupils work show that pupils continue to make good progress as they move through school. By the end of Year 6 their attainment is above, and occasionally well above the level expected for their age.
- Pupils develop their skills in using two and three dimensional media confidently, through a variety of activities but especially when working from imagination. For example pupils in the Year 5 and 6 class developed original ideas in response to the topic set in the Victorian era, 'Around the

world in 80 days'. They worked independently and collaboratively on a huge mural, individually designing arts and crafts inspired tiles, or developing mosaics inspired by their visit to a Victorian seaside resort.

- Pupils demonstrated good depth of understanding about the work of artists, craftworkers and designers and their varied styles of work. However, their breadth of knowledge could be wider.

Quality of teaching in art, craft and design

The quality of teaching in art, craft and design is good.

- Excellent relationships between adults and pupils and between pupils contribute to exemplary behaviour in the subject. Classes are small and well resourced both in terms of materials and adults. Pupils are able to develop their own ideas successfully with timely support or challenge.
- A number of adults who support learning have specialist skills in the subject which are used effectively in class and in building teachers' confidence and extending their skills.
- Lessons are well-structured, yet have the flexibility to follow pupils' individual interests. For example, the large farm pupils in the Year 1 and 2 class constructed evolved from their walk in the local countryside.
- Pupils develop the language of art successfully because opportunities are built into planning and delivery. Good quality dialogue between adults and pupils is ongoing in all lessons enabling pupils to talk informatively about their work, their successes or how to improve it.
- The self-evaluation process used with the pupils to review their work is popular with them. Teachers also create good opportunities for pupils to develop their ideas in sketch books.
- Formal assessment procedures have been put in place over the last year. Teachers now have regular, accurate information on how well pupils are doing and this information is used effectively to ensure that lessons support individuals in their learning about the subject and creativity.

Quality of the curriculum in art, craft and design

The quality of the curriculum in art, craft and design is good.

- Improvements to the curriculum, regular work with a visiting artist and specialists in school has helped to develop an interesting curriculum that is embedded fully in the wider arts. Improvements have still to make their full mark but have had particularly strong impact in the development of pupils' confidence, drawing skills and use of watercolour as a medium.
- The good mix of discrete learning opportunities and cross-curricular work embrace all aspects of the subject. This approach assures there is always something to interest pupils as well as to develop skills further.
- Curriculum development is informed by the celebration of, and feedback on, pupils' work displayed in school, in public spaces within the local village and further afield annually at the North Yorkshire show. Such

initiatives, alongside extended art homework projects, raise the profile of the subject and involve parents and carers in the subject.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in art, craft and design

The effectiveness of leadership and management in art, craft and design is good.

- Staff and pupils report positively on recent improvements to provision and outcomes in the subject. This is due to the resolute focus on embedding the subject into a creative curriculum. High expectations for the subject are shared across the school community.
- Detailed and regular monitoring of pupils achievements, teachers' planning and teaching provide an accurate view of aspects working well and those that need to improve further. The action plan developed is monitored regularly to ensure that improvements are on-track.
- The school is well informed about good practice in the subject through your close work with the visiting artist, through review of appropriate websites and through networking with other schools locally.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- extending the range of artists, craftworkers and designers that pupils study, including more opportunities for pupils to research their approaches and, analyse images and artefacts they create.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop art, craft and design 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.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Farrow
Her Majesty's Inspector