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Mrs E Carey  
Headteacher  
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School  
Fordbridge Road  
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Birmingham  
B37 6LW

Dear Mrs Carey

**Ofsted 2012–13 subject survey inspection programme: information and communication technology (ICT)**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 18 May 2012 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; observation of a Key Stage 1 lesson and joint observation of a Key Stage 2 lesson; brief observation of ICT in the Early Years Foundation Stage; a learning walk with one of your ICT leaders and observation of a whole-school assembly, which included a celebration of the use of ICT across the curriculum.

The overall effectiveness of ICT is good.

**Achievement in ICT**

Achievement in ICT is good.

- Pupils enter the Early Years Foundation Stage with ICT capabilities that are below national expectations. They make good progress and, by the end of Year 6, leave with standards that are in line with expectations overall but above in communication, presentation and data handling. The school recognises the need to raise standards in data logging and the use of sensors to match standards achieved in the other strands of ICT.
- Disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs, and pupils with limited access to new technologies at home, are given effective

support by teachers and teaching assistants, and make the same good progress as other groups of pupils.

- Pupils' behaviour when using ICT is outstanding. They respect the equipment used. There is a palpable sense of interest and enjoyment in lessons. Pupils are very eager to support and cooperate with each other. In lessons observed, and in the whole-school assembly which related to ICT, pupils often spontaneously applauded the achievement of others.

### **Quality of teaching in ICT**

The quality of teaching in ICT is good.

- The quality of teaching is good overall and often outstanding. As a result, standards in ICT are beginning to rise. Teachers and teaching assistants have good, and at times outstanding, subject knowledge. This has been developed through regular school and local authority training, based on audits of needs.
- Teachers and teaching assistants use questions effectively to give immediate feedback and to move pupils forward in their learning.
- Teachers, teaching assistants and pupils are confident users of ICT, which supports quick pace in lessons. Well-rehearsed routines are in place for collecting and returning equipment and for using ICT resources in lessons.
- Activities provided for pupils are well planned and challenging. Good use is made of resources to support learning across the curriculum.
- Newly introduced assessment and monitoring procedures for ICT are at the early stages of development and are not fully embedded. In lessons pupils self-assess against the learning objectives but are not always aware of what they need to do next to improve. The school recognises that this is an area for development.

### **Quality of the curriculum in ICT**

The quality of the curriculum in ICT is good.

- The curriculum ensures that all pupils receive their statutory entitlement for ICT, with a particular emphasis on presenting information, communication and data handling. A relative weakness is the use of data logging. This is recognised as an area for development in the improvement plan.
- Good links are made between ICT, literacy, numeracy, science and foundation subjects based on the newly introduced local authority scheme of work for ICT.
- Pupils with limited access to new technologies at home have regular opportunities to use school resources in the homework club.
- The subject is enhanced well by good links with a local secondary school, which provides enrichment activities in a range of subjects for gifted and talented pupils. These activities include ICT elements. A residential visit, for Years 5 and 6, also includes a strong emphasis on ICT.

- By Year 2, pupils have a satisfactory understanding of how to keep safe while using new technologies. By Year 6, pupils have a good understanding of how to keep safe.

### **Effectiveness of leadership and management in ICT**

The effectiveness of leadership and management in ICT is outstanding.

- You and two subject leaders work extremely well as a team and have ensured that the vision for the subject is understood by all staff and governors. As a result, standards are beginning to rise.
- The school is a driving force in the development of ICT for a group of local primary schools.
- Senior and middle leaders are well informed of current developments in the subject. Technical support is good and ensures that systems are safe and reliable.
- The governing body is very supportive of the developments in ICT and of the ongoing financial investment required.
- Self-evaluation is accurate and the school has a very good capacity to improve further.

### **Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:**

- embedding and evaluating the new assessment and monitoring procedures so that:
  - pupils' progress can be accurately monitored in all strands of the ICT curriculum
  - pupils are aware of their individual targets for improvement
- embedding and evaluating the new scheme of work to ensure that all strands of the curriculum, especially data logging and the use of sensors, are fully resourced.

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

**Anthony Green**  
**Additional Inspector**