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Mr G P Hirst
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Hirst

Ofsted 2012–13 subject survey inspection programme: art, craft and design

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 29 May 2012 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: interviews with staff and pupils; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' work; and observation of five lessons conducted 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.

- From often below average starting points when they enter Reception, children make good progress in their creative development. Interesting and varied opportunities are provided both indoors and out. These, alongside careful assessments of children's achievements ensure that their skills and knowledge as well as their creativity are built upon well.
- Pupils continue to make good progress as they move through school; progress accelerates in Years 5 and 6. By the time they leave, achievements are at least average and often good; particularly in drawing.
- Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. They work enthusiastically exploring different media. Year 2 pupils were seen thoroughly enjoying weaving bicycle wheels, barbeque grills and looms using a wide range of interesting textiles and materials. Children in Reception enjoyed designing their own

figurative computer-generated paintings or creating carriages for their forthcoming jubilee celebrations.

Quality of teaching in art, craft and design

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

- Teachers are enthusiastic about the subject because it is fully embedded in the school's new 'Big Curriculum' and because the teachers who have an arts specialism share their zeal and skills with others successfully.
- Good relationships between teachers and pupils, well-deployed adults and a 'have a go' culture build pupils' self-esteem and confidence successfully. This ensures that all pupils take a full and enthusiastic part in lessons.
- Lessons are well designed, including careful planning to develop pupils' skills and techniques alongside opportunities to develop their creativity.
- Classrooms are efficiently organised. Pupils work equally well in groups, pairs or independently, choosing from, and using, the good range of materials and tools that teachers provide.
- Formal assessment is being developed further, to add rigour to teachers' well-established assessments in lessons. These assessments, along with pupils' self- and peer-reviews and use of sketchbooks, ensure that pupils reflect on their work, know how well they are doing and what they need to do to improve or develop ideas further.

Quality of the curriculum in art, craft and design

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

- Recent developments in the subject are adding to pupils' stated enjoyment and achievements. Rigorous checking by the subject coordinator has ensured that art, craft and design opportunities are built into new topics well and in a way that build pupils' skills and knowledge progressively.
- There is good coverage of work in two- and three-dimensional media, with a range of opportunities to work through direct observation and imagination.
- The use of arts-based information and communication technology is developing well. Pupils have increasing opportunities to explore image making through photography and the use of computer software.
- The grounds of the school are used well as a source of inspiration and evidence the design skills of the pupils who have designed a number of interesting child-friendly areas.
- The subject is enriched effectively through homework activities and an after-school art club. Good partnership with the local specialist arts college extends opportunities further through a regular Saturday art class.
- Pupils visit a satisfactory range of galleries and have some opportunities to work with local artists or craftworkers. Pupils report they would value more experiences than are currently provided because they find these occasions

inspirational and helpful in developing their skills, creativity and enjoyment 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.

- Senior leaders have successfully embedded art, craft and design within the school's cross-curricular approach to learning and have inspired all staff and pupils successfully.
- The coordinator shares her skills with others enthusiastically and training is provided to help teachers to learn new skills; this was particularly the case when the new curriculum was being developed.
- The coordinator keeps abreast of best practice in the subject by networking with other coordinators locally and visiting local schools to enhance the Early Years Foundation Stage provision particularly.
- Regular review of the subject, including monitoring of planning, sketchbooks and classroom activities, ensures accurate identification of strengths in the subject and areas for improvement. An appropriate action plan has been developed to tackle these few areas, such as embedding formal assessment procedures across all classes.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- extending opportunities for pupils to visit local galleries and to work with, and learn from, contemporary craftworkers
- embedding the formal assessment procedures more fully across the school.

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. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Farrow
Her Majesty's Inspector