INSPECTION REPORT

GORSE HALL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Stalybridge, Cheshire

LEA area: Tameside

Unique reference number: 106188

Headteacher: Mr D E Harrison

Lead inspector: Mr I Hocking

Dates of inspection: 24 – 27 May 2004

Inspection number: 256229

Inspection carried out under section 10 of the School Inspections Act 1996

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Type of school:	Primary
School category:	Community
Age range of pupils:	3 – 11
Gender of pupils:	Mixed
Number on roll:	399
School address:	Forester Drive Stalybridge Cheshire
Postcode:	SK15 2 DP
Telephone number:	0161 338 4262
Fax number:	0161 304 9728
Appropriate authority:	Governing Body
Name of chair of governors:	Mr G Goodchild
Date of previous inspection:	12 October 1998

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCHOOL

Gorse Hall is a larger than average primary school located close to the town centre of Stalybridge. It serves a community that includes privately rented and local authority housing and a wide range of owner-occupied houses. There are 399 pupils on roll and a further 66 who attend part-time in the Nursery. There are more pupils in the school than there were at the time of the last inspection. There are significantly more boys than girls in the school, especially in Years 4, 5 and 6. Pupils attend the Nursery for either morning or afternoon sessions from the age of three and enter the Reception class in the September of the school year in which they become five. The attainment of pupils on entry to school is about average.

There are three pupils in school who have Statements of Special Educational Needs and this is below the national average. There are 61 pupils who are at different stages of assessment for special educational needs, which is about average. The school admits pupils from a variety of backgrounds. All pupils in school come from homes where English is the first language. Fourteen per cent of pupils receive school meals free of charge; this is in line with the national average.

The school has received the award of Investors in People.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE INSPECTION TEAM

Members of the inspection team			Subject responsibilities
1272	Mr I Hocking	Lead inspector	Mathematics, physical education, religious education, English as an additional language
9974	Mr D Singh	Lay inspector	
4350	Mr C Whittington	Team inspector	English, art and design, geography, special educational needs
8316	Mrs J O'Hare	Team inspector	Science, history, music, Foundation Stage
6642	Mr P Hill	Team inspector	Information and communication technology, citizenship, design and technology

The inspection contractor was:

Serco QAA

Herringston Barn
Herringston
Dorchester
Dorset
DT2 9PU

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PART A: SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

OVERALL EVALUATION

Gorse Hall is a very good and caring school that benefits from very good leadership, management and governance. The excellent work of the headteacher and deputy headteacher is pivotal to the school's very good improvement. They promote an atmosphere in which individuals are respected and valued. Pupils of all abilities and backgrounds are expected to do their best and most achieve very well because of the very good quality of education provided. The school provides very good value for money.

The school's main strengths and weaknesses are:

- Leadership and management are very good and lead to very good teamwork.
- Very good and occasionally excellent teaching enables most pupils to achieve very well.
- Educational standards in English and mathematics are above those found nationally and are improving.
- Pupils' very good attitudes and behaviour contribute significantly to their learning.
- Pupils' learning and personal development benefit from an enriched curriculum.
- Good provision is made to ensure pupils' care, welfare and safety, though the playground surface needs to be improved.
- Assessment arrangements are unsatisfactory for information and communication technology (ICT), religious education (RE), history and art and design.

The school has made very good improvement since it was previously inspected. All the key issues have been dealt with successfully. In addition, there has been considerable improvement in teaching and good improvement in leadership, management and curricular provision, all of which contribute to improved educational standards.

STANDARDS ACHIEVED

Results in National Curriculum tests at the end of Year 6, compared with:	all schools			similar schools
	2001	2002	2003	2003
English	B	E	A	A
mathematics	C	E	C	C
	C	E	C	C

Key: A - well above average