

Richard Atkins Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100578
Local Authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	276336
Inspection dates	12–13 June 2006
Reporting inspector	Daniel Brian Evans

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of school	Primary
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	3–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr Nigel East Ms Julie Roberts
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	New Park Road Brixton Hill London SW2 4JP
Telephone number	02086745601
Fax number	02086740156

Age group	3–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by 3 Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

Richard Atkins Primary is a larger than average primary school. It is located in an area of rented council housing. There is a very diverse mix of ethnic groups in the school. Half of the pupils are from White and Black Caribbean or African backgrounds. The proportion of pupils with English as an additional language is well above average, the most common languages being Somali, Spanish and Portuguese. Pupil mobility is high. Just over half the pupils are entitled to free school meals. The number of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is well above average. There are two pupils with statements of special educational need. The headteacher is in her second year at the school and recent staff turnover has been high.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade:

What the school should do to improve further

- * Ensure that expectations of what pupils are capable of achieving are consistently high and they know how to improve their work.
- * Improve teachers' subject knowledge in mathematics.
- * Improve attendance.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Provision overall is satisfactory. Teaching is satisfactory overall but is inconsistent from class-to-class and varies between good and unsatisfactory. Pupils are learning satisfactorily overall because their progress is supported well by a good range of additional opportunities which supplements their classroom work. They are eager to learn and those with learning difficulties or at the early stages of learning English make good progress.

The nursery environment is particularly stimulating and creative. Teaching assistants are well deployed and effective. There are examples of good teaching and learning across the school. In a Year 5 English lesson, the teacher knew all the pupils so well that she was able to ensure that they were all working enthusiastically towards their individual literacy targets. However, aspects of numeracy, in particular investigative and problem solving skills, are not developed well by teachers. In weaker lessons, particularly where teachers' subject knowledge is insecure, pace and teachers' expectations are too low and pupils are involved too little in the lessons. Teachers' day to day assessments are also inconsistent although improving as new procedures are integrated into teachers' planning.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is satisfactory. The new planning formats ensure that all national requirements are met. Provision for literacy, numeracy and ICT is satisfactory. Teachers' planning ensures that opportunities are taken to teach basic skills in all subjects. Nationally produced plans are being adapted to match the needs of the pupils. The Foundation Stage curriculum is good and those pupils with learning difficulties are well provided for. The curriculum is suitably enriched by a programme of visits and visitors. This includes a number of visitors from minority ethnic groups, such as an Indian story teller. The school makes good use of the local environment, encouraging pupils to act as responsible members of the community.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The care, guidance and support provided by the school are satisfactory. Adults in the school community work well together to care for pupils. Provision for pupils at an early stage of acquiring English and for those with learning difficulties is good. There are good induction and support procedures for new admissions. Teachers' use of assessment to support lesson planning and pupils' learning is uneven; a number of pupils are not sure as to how to improve their work. The good pastoral system helps pupils learn from each other, with older pupils taking responsibility for younger 'buddies'. Links with outside agencies have strengthened considerably since the last inspection. Procedures for ensuring that pupils feel safe and secure around school are good. Parents are very positive about what the school is doing and confirm its view that their children receive satisfactory care, guidance and support.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Pupils

Thank you for welcoming us to your school and telling us about your work. We enjoyed our visit. There are things about your school that we like very much.

* You were polite and a pleasure to talk to.* Your work on display in the school is good and shows that most of you are keen to work hard and learn.* Many of you are aware of how to live healthily and join in activities outside lessons.* The 'buddy' system helps you to feel safe.

We know after talking to you that you can do even better and so we have asked the school to work with you to* improve your work even further* become more confident mathematicians and* improve attendance.

Yours sincerely

Brian Evans

Lead Inspector