

Grove Nursery School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100771
Local Authority	Southwark
Inspection number	276383
Inspection dates	13–14 June 2006
Reporting inspector	Wendy Simmons

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

Type of school	Nursery
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	3–4
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr Jeremy Brill Ms Esther Hothersall
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Tower Mill Road Peckham London SE15 6BP
Telephone number	02077016629
Fax number	02077016629

Age group	3–4
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one Additional Inspector.

Description of the school

This popular nursery school educates children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The largest groups include Black African, White British and Caribbean children. Many children come from socially deprived backgrounds. However, following housing redevelopment, the population has become more balanced and stable, with an increasing proportion of children attending who come from more favourable social backgrounds. A high proportion speak English as an additional language and over 19 languages are represented in the school. The number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities is high.

The school has recently moved into spacious new accommodation, following a period of great upheaval during rebuilding. The school is now almost ready to open as a 'Children's Centre' in September 2006. A comprehensive outreach programme, linked to 'Sure Start', helps children and families to access pre-school education and health services in partnership with the school.

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

* Improve the progress and achievement of the more able boys.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching and learning are good. Adults have outstanding relationships with the children and plan enjoyable and well organised learning activities, which result in children being active and successful learners.

Learning is generally well planned and assessed carefully, so that children make good progress, but some planning does not include how discussions and activities might be further extended for the most able learners. There is some inconsistency in how well adults ask questions and engage more able children in learning. Nonetheless, staff focus clearly on helping children to hear good models of spoken language and children have many opportunities to talk generally about what they are doing. These features enable children with learning difficulties to make good progress and also enhance the support given to those learning English as an additional language. High standards in reading reflect good teaching of basic skills and successful promotion of a love for books.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The school provides a good curriculum. The building is well designed to support the curriculum. An exciting outside learning area is close to completion. Currently, physical activity has been limited because of building works, but provision of physical exercise and children's progress in physical development are satisfactory. Basic skills are effectively taught, such as reading, skills with computers, writing and mathematical work. Children are also helped to develop their creativity and imagination and they really enjoy learning and benefit from a good range of visits and exciting musical activities. This further aids their achievement, especially those who are learning English as an additional language. The curriculum is very well planned to help children to learn social skills, to adopt healthy and safe lifestyles and ensures that children with learning difficulties are supported in making good progress.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

Care, guidance and support are outstanding. Staff know the children very well and demonstrate outstanding care. The school rigorously promotes activities that help children to adopt healthy

lifestyles and care and respect for others. The school chef provides outstanding food to ensure that children have healthy meals. Children know that adults will help them if they are worried or need help. Vulnerable children are particularly well supported, for example, through the close links with support agencies. Very robust child protection procedures are in place and bullying is rare. Risk assessments are thorough and effective. Good systems help staff to assess how well pupils are progressing. Children behave well. They settle quickly into school because staff are very supportive. The school gives out very clear information and develops strong partnerships with parents quickly. Parents confirm that this is a, 'very caring and nurturing environment' where, 'children are treated as individuals'.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Children

You may remember that I came to your school to find out how well you are doing. Thank you for being so friendly. You really like Grove Nursery and are very happy at school, enjoying learning and being cared for so well by Esther (your headteacher) and all of the other grown ups. You are lucky children to be able to go to a good school which helps you to learn new things quickly and well. You are especially good at learning how to enjoy books, play with others, share things and take turns. So well done for this and keep it up! I especially like the way your parents and adults work together, to help you to do well at school.

Esther and the other grown ups are very keen to make your school even better, so I have asked them to make sure that all of the boys are as busy as the girls, especially by helping them to talk more about what they are doing. I know that you are all looking forward to going to play and learn in your new garden. I hope that it will soon be open and that it doesn't rain as much as it did when I came to visit you!

Have a lovely summer at school and keep eating all that delicious healthy food that your school chef makes for you.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Simmons

Lead Inspector