

Old Church Nursery School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100885
Local Authority	Tower Hamlets
Inspection number	276410
Inspection dates	15–16 November 2005
Reporting inspector	Sue Vale

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 Phil Warburton Ms Peggy Messer
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Walter Terrace London E1 0RJ
Telephone number	020 7790 2824
Fax number	020 7265 8686

Age group	3–4
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one Additional Inspector.

Description of the school

Old Church Nursery is a larger than average nursery school with 118 children on roll. It is situated in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in one of the most economically deprived areas in England. Over 80% of families come from minority ethnic groups and has English as an additional language. The majority come from the Bangladeshi community. There are currently 12 different languages spoken by families of children in school. Children enter nursery with below average levels of attainment in all areas of early learning. Most children start with little or no English and with lower than average speaking and listening skills. The majority of children in the school are three year olds with many starting soon after their third birthday.

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

* Continue with the development of the outside area so that plans already in place can be carried through.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

The inspection confirms the nursery's view that teaching and learning are good. Lessons are well prepared. Good knowledge of the early years curriculum and how young children learn ensures that activities are well planned and relevant. The emphasis which is given to providing an exciting and stimulating curriculum by teachers means that children want to participate and are eager to try out new activities. Support staff work well with those with learning difficulties. The needs of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds are effectively met. Bilingual support assistants work well in supporting the development of children's language. For example, a small group of children who are in the early stages of learning English were supported well by a teacher and bilingual support assistant in learning new words. The practical 'hands on' activity of dressing the teddy bear, and the use of both Bengali and English, ensured that children were clear about what they were learning and reinforced their new vocabulary. Children share ideas and equipment well, benefiting from sensitive intervention which helps them to improve. Basic skills are taught thoroughly. Children genuinely enjoy learning. They are proud of what they do. Adult observations of what the children know and understand have shown the rapid progress they make. Children make their own independent choices in these observations about what they would like collected in their 'special books'.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is outstanding. Excellent knowledge of how young children learn ensures that staff plan and prepare activities which really influence and inspire children to want to learn. Basic skills are taught well through encouragement and exciting practical 'hands-on' activities. There is good use of information and communication technology. The curriculum caters for the needs of all children very well but is particularly strong in the development of early literacy and communication skills. This ensures good progress in all areas of learning and in particular for the children who are at the early stages of learning English. The curriculum is further enhanced by visits to places of interest such as Oxleas Wood.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The staff provide good support for the pupils through their day-to-day care. They are well informed and kept up to date. The school's arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children are good and all staff have recently been trained in child protection procedures. Relationships between children and adults and between home and school are good. The nursery provides an inclusive, safe, caring environment. Staff know pupils well. Assessment is used carefully to give all pupils individual targets in each of the six areas of learning.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Thank you for all your help when I visited your nursery. I enjoyed watching your lessons and your play and talking to some of you. This is what I found out.

* You behave very well and obviously enjoy all the activities the teachers set out for you to do.* What you learn is really exciting.* The staff look after you well.* The teachers are very good at explaining things to you and they make sure that you keep busy.* In lessons, you work hard and do your best.* You make good progress in your learning.* Your headteacher and all the staff work very well together as a team and provide you all with a good start to your education.

For your nursery to get even better they need to continue with the plans they have to develop the outside area.Thank you once again for letting me meet you. I enjoyed myself very much.

Best wishes

Sue Vale, Lead Inspector