

Beatrice Tate School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100989
Local Authority	Tower Hamlets
Inspection number	276436
Inspection dates	7–8 June 2006
Reporting inspector	Mike Smith

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

Type of school	Special
School category	Community special
Age range of pupils	11–19
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mrs Elaine Galton Mr Alan Black
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	St Jude's Road London E2 9RW
Telephone number	020 7739 6249
Fax number	020 7613 1507

Age group	11–19
Inspection dates	7–8 June 2006
Inspection number	276436

© Crown copyright 2006

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Further copies of this report are obtainable from the school. Under the Education Act 2005, the school must provide a copy of this report free of charge to certain categories of people. A charge not exceeding the full cost of reproduction may be made for any other copies supplied.

Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one Additional Inspector.

Description of the school

Beatrice Tate is a community special school within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. All pupils have statements of special educational needs as a result of their severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. A significant and increasing number of pupils have additional medical needs. A significant group of pupils are of Bangladeshi ethnic origin and English is not the first language for 65% of the pupils. The school has been awarded the Investors in People award and the silver Artsmark award. The school has recently begun to provide a support service to neighbouring secondary schools and pupils whose learning is causing some concern.

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 the curriculum continually develops and effectively meets the learning needs of all groups of pupils;
- ensure that the excellent teaching practice within the school is effectively shared and consistently delivered.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Pupils enjoy their lessons because relationships are excellent, the lessons are interesting and they feel that they make good progress. This is due to the effective adult team work and the learning targets that are well matched to their individual needs. Teaching is good overall, with some examples of excellence across all age groups. Teaching assistants work hard to ensure that all pupils get the best out of lessons and carefully monitor their progress. Together with the school nurse and therapists they ensure that pupils are ready and able to fully participate in activities. Pupil effort and achievement is celebrated in the classroom and within the school community.

Teachers use assessment of pupils' progress in planning lessons and to generally ensure work is carefully matched to pupils' needs. There is effective monitoring of lessons by senior staff and supportive feedback is given to help teachers further improve. Excellent practice is acknowledged and strategies are being considered to share this practice more effectively across the school. In the very best lessons, teachers provide a wide range of stimulating and motivating activities and use ICT effectively. Lessons are very well supported by consistent signing and the use of symbols to aid communication and pupil participation.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is developing well and goes a long way in meeting the wide range of pupils' needs. The school is aware that because of the increasingly complex learning needs of some pupils, the curriculum is constantly in need of review and improvement to ensure all these needs are met. Personal, social and health education, together with citizenship, is central to its development. Morning tutorial sessions are effectively used to concentrate on individual targets and core skills which help pupils of all ages develop a sense of self-awareness and community. The use of ICT to support learning across the curriculum is excellent and has improved considerably since the last inspection.

There are opportunities for both separate and joined sessions for pupils with severe learning difficulties and those with more complex and profound learning difficulties as for example, tutorial time and the creative arts project which includes activities in art, dance, drama and music. There is an increasing emphasis placed on travel and social skills training to develop greater independence within the community. Pupils in the sixth form group benefit from the good links with further education colleges, leisure facilities and day centres that all provide a range of helpful learning experiences. These pupils are well prepared for the future through vocational studies, work related learning and supported work experience placements. Currently all school leavers have suitable placements to move onto when they leave at the end of term. The accommodation is well designed and of a very high quality. The range of carefully designed learning environments are effectively supported by 'state of the art technology' that makes it a pleasure for both staff and pupils alike to engage in teaching and learning activities.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

A very high level of care, guidance and support is provided and the school places the individual pupil at the heart of everything it does. All staff, including teachers, teaching assistants, therapists and medical staff work very closely together to meet the individual needs of all pupils. Academic, personal and social progress is monitored and assessed throughout the day and informs detailed pupil reports. Parents appreciate the school/home comment book that is used for an important exchange of daily information. They are overwhelmingly supportive of the school and one parent commented, 'Our daughter is unable to express her views clearly, but we are sure the school respects her views whenever possible'. The school provides a high quality learning environment in which pupils are kept safe and can thrive. Arrangements for child protection are clearly understood by all adults and pupils. Pupils say they feel safe in school and 'teachers look after us'.

Pupils receive effective advice and guidance when decisions have to be made about their next steps after school. Link courses at local colleges enable pupils to experience a range of vocational options before choices are made. Pupils have well-planned opportunities to learn about the world at work which helps to develop their confidence and independence.

Leadership and management

Grade:

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints about school inspection', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Pupils

I really enjoyed my visit to your school and I would like to thank you for making my visit such a happy one. It was a real pleasure to see you working in your lovely classrooms and studios and having such fun with your learning and you were so well behaved. I thought your school is good at meeting your needs and there were many things I particularly liked:

* You all receive a good and improving education and you are very well cared for by all adults in the school.* You enjoy coming to school, are happy in your lessons and make good, sometimes excellent progress, towards your individual targets.* Your teachers and teaching assistants work really well together and ensure your lessons are interesting and fun so you can do your best.* Your parents/carers really appreciate what the school does for you.* Your headteacher and all the staff listen carefully to you and are always thinking what they can do to make your time in school even better.* Your school knows what it is good at and how it can improve even more.* I am really sorry I did not get to see your Friday assembly, but I did see a DVD recording of you receiving your prizes and certificates for all your good work and achievements.* Older pupils set a good example in the school and learn valuable skills that will help them after they have left school.

Oh, I nearly forgot! Your fabulous school building! You are very lucky to be learning in such a well designed building with excellent resources, such as, smart boards and sound and light systems. It was also good to see you and the teachers using the computers so well in lessons. The school will now work even harder to meet your learning needs by looking closely at developing the curriculum and making sure that you consistently receive the very best teaching. Once again, thank you for being so friendly and making my visit such a pleasant one.

Yours sincerely

Mike Smith

Lead Inspector