

Millbank Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	101113
Local Authority	Westminster
Inspection number	276452
Inspection dates	25–26 April 2006
Reporting inspector	Glynis Bradley-Peat

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 Mike Katz Ms A Russen
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Erasmus Street London SW1P 4HR
Telephone number	02076415945
Fax number	02076415946

Age group	3–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by three additional inspectors.

Description of the school

Millbank Primary School is of average size. It serves an area of high deprivation in London. Almost half the pupils are entitled to free school meals. An overwhelming majority of pupils are from minority ethnic groups. A much larger than average proportion of pupils is in the early stages of learning English, with Arabic and Bengali being the main languages spoken. The number of pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities is average. The school has achieved 'Healthy Schools' status. In the last year, the school's 'net capacity' has been raised from 30 to 45 pupils per year group which reflects a rise in demand for places.

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 higher-attainers are consistently well challenged throughout the entire lesson.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

The school is modest in judging the quality of its teaching as good. In fact it is outstanding. The relative stability of staffing has helped produce a good level of classroom practice, and pupils' learning can progress steadily from class to class. In addition to its excellent classroom teachers, the school makes very good use of additional teaching and support staff, who work intensively, and very effectively, with identified groups of pupils with particular needs. One group of pupils, for example, made exceptional headway in English by producing a film based on a story they had enjoyed. Visiting teachers also add challenge and breadth to the teaching, for example offering an excellent introduction to French in Year 6. Assessment procedures are very effective and assessment information is used well to guide planning. Pupils requiring particular attention are identified accurately.

Teachers know that developing confidence and competence in English - especially in spoken English - is a critical goal for the pupils, and they emphasise this in their lessons. They question pupils well, and expect full, extended answers. They appreciate that pupils learn best when work captures their interest and concentration, and they plan engaging tasks with this in mind. In return they expect pupils to concentrate and behave well. In a small minority of lessons, the work set does not fully challenge pupils who learn quickly.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The previous inspection commended the school's good curriculum. The pupils have even better learning opportunities now, and provision is outstanding. Skills in numeracy, literacy and information and communication technology (ICT) are rigorously taught, with a very strong and appropriate emphasis on spoken language. Teachers make excellent use of a wide range of learning programmes to ensure that work in these subjects is well tailored to each pupil's needs. There are excellent opportunities to develop personal, social and physical skills, both in lessons and in the well-supported programme of clubs and activities.

Staff appreciate the important contribution enrichment activities can make to pupils' development, especially in learning English. There is a wide range of educational trips, and projects with local schools and arts organisations. Visitors come to school to share their skills

and personal experience with the pupils. The programme of creative activity has been extended, and the school has improved its provision in this area since the last inspection.

The particular strength of the curriculum, however, lies in its commitment to the diversity of cultures of its pupils, the celebration of the bilingualism of many of them, and its delight in its location in the centre of a great city.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The quality of these aspects is outstanding and the school is rightly proud of its caring ethos. Pupils and parents speak of it as a cheerful and caring community. One parent commented, 'I feel my children have the best possible start to their education'. They are confident that their children are safe and happy in school. Appropriate procedures for health and safety are in place. Child protection procedures are excellent and all staff receive regular training.

Outstanding assessment procedures support excellent teaching. Records of pupils who have learning difficulties and those who speak English as an additional language are maintained meticulously and used consistently to target and prioritise effective support. The school successfully implements intervention programmes after carefully analysing the needs of its pupils. The school started a 'Lunch time girls' group' to boost the speaking skills of some Bengali girls. This benefited the girls greatly and really built up their confidence.

The presence of the Learning Mentor, play ground monitors and other staff ensure that pupils play together well during break times. Pupils were happy to tell us that if any issues arise, they are resolved quickly and effectively.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Children

Thank you very much for being so helpful and grown up when we came to visit your school this week. We really enjoyed meeting you, talking to you and looking at all your beautiful work.

We think that Millbank Primary is a brilliant school and this is why: * You all really enjoy school and work very hard * You are always keen to do your best * You love winning competitions in sport and are proud of your school * Your teachers are very hard working * We saw lots of great lessons * You are very well behaved and work and play really well with others * Millbank Parliament does a very good job * The staff care for you very well so you can grow up healthy and safe * Your head teacher and her deputy do a fantastic job so that you can all do your best.

Even in a super school like yours there is something that could be improved: * Your teachers need to make sure that those of you who finish your work very quickly, are always given something harder to do Finally, we would like to thank you once again for all your help. We wish you well in the future.

With kind regards

Glyn Bradley-Peat

Lead Inspector