

Deansbrook Junior School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	101273
Local Authority	Barnet
Inspection number	276484
Inspection dates	22–23 June 2006
Reporting inspector	Keith Sadler

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

Type of school	Junior
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	7–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr Graham Clark Mrs Carol Livingstone
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Hale Drive Mill Hill London NW7 3ED
Telephone number	02089593423
Fax number	02082010492

Age group	7–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by three Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

This is a large junior school. About a third of the pupils come from White British backgrounds and about a sixth are from each of Black or Black British, White - any other White background. Over half the pupils speak English as an additional language and the majority are at an early stage of English acquisition. There are 35 languages spoken at the school. Pupils come from below average economic backgrounds and a high proportion of pupils are entitled to free school meals. The proportion with learning difficulties and disabilities is high. A high proportion of pupils enter the school after the normal entry point in Year 3. Many of these pupils are refugees or asylum seekers.

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

* Provide systematically planned opportunities to extend the pupils' speaking and listening skills.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching and learning are outstanding overall, enabling the pupils to achieve very well throughout the school. Teachers have established very good relationships with pupils and set consistently high expectations for behaviour and learning. Lessons have pace and challenge, and are skilfully planned to draw in elements from across the curriculum. Teachers' expertise in using the interactive whiteboards makes learning exciting and motivates pupils. Work is very well matched to pupils' individual needs and all learn very well as a result. Teaching assistants are efficiently organised to provide very good support to those who find learning hard and for those who speak English as an additional language. This means that these pupils have full access to activities and make very good progress.

Assessment procedures are very effective. Information is used accurately to plan future teaching and to set challenging targets for pupils' learning. The marking of pupils' work is generally good as it helps pupils to recognise how well they have done and what they need to do to improve.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The school's curriculum is excellent and meets the needs of all its pupils. Recent redesigning of the way work is covered has resulted in a curriculum which is imaginative and stimulating while still focusing on key skills in language, mathematics, science and ICT. A themed approach, such as Greek or Egyptian days or creativity weeks make lessons fun for the pupils and encourage them to take responsibility for their learning. Year 5 pupils, for example, were excited by the prospect of doing research on different countries on the internet and then preparing their own presentations.

Provision for pupils with learning difficulties, disabilities and for those who speak English as an additional language is excellent. Outstanding organisation, preparation and support enable these pupils to have full access to the curriculum. A very extensive range of clubs, visits and visitors adds still further to pupils' enjoyment of what the school has to offer.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The school provides pupils with outstanding care, guidance and support. It provides a very safe and secure environment in which pupils thrive. There is a strong commitment to helping all pupils, including those who have recently joined the school, with a comprehensive and individually prepared induction programme. The arrangements for checking the pupils' personal and academic progress are excellent. All pupils are regularly and systematically assessed and action taken to address difficulties and underachievement. Provision for pupils identified as having learning or medical difficulties is outstanding. They are supported exceptionally well and their progress against targets is monitored rigorously. Their frequent reviews involve parents very well. Child protection and health and safety procedures are secure and all staff receive appropriate training on a regular basis.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Pupils

Thank you for making us so welcome when we came to visit your school. We all enjoyed talking with you and your teachers and watching your learning and now understand why you enjoy school so much.

We checked out many things about your school and this is what we found: * Your school is outstanding. * Your headteacher is excellent and she makes sure that you learn well, everyone is safe and the staff work really well together. * Deansbrook is an exciting and happy place to be. You like going to school because your lessons are exciting and challenging and there are lots of interesting things for you to do both during school time and after school. * Your behaviour is excellent and you work together very well. * We think that all the adults in the school do an excellent job. Your teachers are very talented and work very hard and make sure that the teaching is excellent. They make sure that you do your best.

There is one thing that we have asked the school to do. We would like your teachers to make sure that there are more chances for you to develop your speaking and listening skills.

With very best wishes for your future.

Keith Sadler

Lead Inspector