

Sunnyfields Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	101311
Local Authority	Barnet
Inspection number	276495
Inspection dates	4–5 May 2006
Reporting inspector	Daniel Kilborn

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	Mrs Ros White Miss Alison Godfrey
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Hatchcroft off Greyhound Hill Hendon London NW4 4JH
Telephone number	02082033113
Fax number	02082026909

Age group	3–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

The school is an average sized primary school. It serves a culturally diverse population and nearly two thirds of pupils have a first language other than English. There are 29 different languages spoken. The proportion of pupils joining or leaving the school at other than the usual times is high. A third of the pupils are refugees and asylum seekers. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties is broadly average and 6 pupils have a statement of educational need. Overall an average proportion of pupils are eligible for free school meals.

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

* Raise standards and achievement in writing, by giving pupils more opportunities to use writing skills across all subjects.

* Improve the quality of teaching and learning to ensure more consistent progress.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Overall teaching is satisfactory with examples of good teaching and learning across the school. Teaching has improved since the previous inspection but there is still not enough good teaching resulting in inconsistent progress across the school. Resources are used well and help pupils' understanding. Pupils identified as needing additional help are supported well by teachers and classroom assistants. Where teaching is most effective, teachers share clear objectives, match work well to pupil ability and have high expectations of behaviour and work-rate. Pupils are given good opportunities to share their work with each other. For example, in a good science lesson in Year 2 pupils developed their observational skills well by sharing them with other pupils. In less successful lessons weaknesses in teachers' day-to-day assessments of progress result in work that is either too easy or too difficult. The school marking policy is inconsistently applied across classes. The best marking gives guidance to show pupils how to improve and encourages them to assess their own work.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The school has focussed on raising and maintaining standards in English, mathematics and science. This has been generally successful but has resulted in less time being devoted to other subjects. The curriculum overall is broad and balanced but the school recognises the need to be more creative and enable pupils to use their skills across subjects. There is a wide range of after school activities which the pupils enjoy. The Foundation Stage curriculum covers the areas of learning appropriately. There are good systems to support pupils at the early stages of learning English and those new to school. Provision for pupils' personal, social and health education is good.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

All staff are committed to making the school a safe and caring place where the needs of all pupils are paramount. Pupils say they are confident that they will be listened to and supported

if anything is worrying them. The headteacher works effectively with other agencies to support vulnerable pupils and their families and to improve the attendance and punctuality of more persistent absentees. One parent commented 'it is heartening to note the seriousness with which issues such as attendance and punctuality are taken by the school.' There are good systems for child protection and requirements regarding risk assessments are met. All teachers pay good attention to health and safety aspects. Monitoring of pupils' progress is satisfactory and the outcomes are used increasingly well to support and guide pupils' academic and personal development. Current targets have been set using this improved tracking information.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Pupils

I would like to thank you on behalf of the inspectors for the friendly and helpful way you welcomed us to Sunnyfields School. We enjoyed our visit and were especially impressed with the way you all get on well together. It is clear that you enjoy coming to your school and are proud of it. Children who have arrived from other places say they were also made to feel very welcome and soon made new friends. You behave well, like and trust your teachers and you tell us that that they look after you well if you have any problems. Your headteacher and all the staff are working hard to make the school better. We know your teachers and other visitors to school tell you about keeping safe and teach you about healthy eating and which foods are good for you.

You work hard in class, help each other with work and listen when other children or your teacher is talking. You do especially well when lessons are interesting and the work you are given is not too hard or too easy. Work in mathematics and science is improving, but we think you could be better at writing and have asked your teachers to give you more opportunities to practice.

We were very pleased to see how many of you take part in the after school activities and thought the ecology garden was superb! The new playground apparatus looks great fun and the school council and your parents are to be congratulated for their part in making it possible.

Best wishes for the future

Daniel Kilborn

Lead Inspector