



Longhoughton Church of England First School

Inspection Report

Unique Reference Number 122277
LEA Northumberland
Inspection number 281215
Inspection dates 29 March 2006 to 30 March 2006
Reporting inspector Mr David Shearsmith

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

Type of school	First	School address	Longhoughton
School category	Voluntary controlled		Alnwick
Age range of pupils	4 to 9		Northumberland NE66 3AJ
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Telephone number	01665 577204
Number on roll	154	Fax number	01665 577204
Appropriate authority	The governing body	Chair of governors	Mrs Audrey Jamieson
Date of previous inspection	1 December 2003	Headteacher	Mrs Julie Henderson

Age group 4 to 9	Inspection dates 29 March 2006 - 30 March 2006	Inspection number 281215
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one additional inspector.

Description of the school

Longhoughton First School caters for pupils aged 4 to 9 and works closely with the separate nursery on-site. The school serves the village of Longhoughton and surrounding communities. Pupils are taught in six classes; they enter school with broadly average standards. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is in line with the national average. However, because some families work in the services, the mobility of pupils is twice the national average for all year groups.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 2

This is a good school which provides well for its pupils. This matches the school's own view of its effectiveness. There are effective links with the nursery and these links, together with good Foundation Stage provision in Reception, enable the children to make good progress and a good start to their education by the time they join Year 1. They make good overall progress in Key Stage 1, although standards should be higher in reading. Pupils continue to make good progress in Key Stage 2 and achieve above average standards in English and mathematics by the time they leave school at the end of Year 4. They also achieve well in other subjects, particularly in art and information and communication technology (ICT). Pupils enjoy school. It provides a safe and secure environment to support their learning. Relationships are good and pupils are well behaved. The staff work well as a team; they know the pupils well as individuals and provide them with good guidance and support. However, the pupils are not involved enough in assessing how well they are doing. The curriculum is satisfactory; it is carefully adapted to meet pupils' differing needs and is enriched by a good range of activities. There is a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy, as well as ICT, but the curriculum is constrained in the Foundation Stage because the children do not have sufficient access to outdoor activities to ensure their effective physical development. The headteacher is well supported by the deputy headteacher and together they provide good leadership and management. The school has accurately identified the areas needing further improvement. Overall, the school offers good value for money and has the capacity to improve further

not applicable

What the school should do to improve further

The school should:

- raise standards in reading in Key Stage 1
- enable the children in the Foundation Stage to make faster progress in their physical development through better access to outdoor play
- involve pupils more in assessing their own learning in all subjects.

Achievement and standards

Grade: 2

Standards are above average and pupils achieve well. Pupils enter the Foundation Stage with broadly average levels of attainment. They make good progress through the Foundation Stage, except in their physical development because of limited access to outdoor play. They continue to make good overall progress throughout Years 1 to 4 and generally reach above average standards by the end of Year 4, even though some of them have only been in the school a brief time because of the high level of mobility of the service children.

The results of Year 2 national tests in 2005 were well above average overall. They were well above average in mathematics and writing but pupils do not make as much progress with reading and the results were only average. The school acknowledges this as a matter for improvement in its action plan. Good progress is maintained in Years 3 and 4 and the school's highly effective monitoring and assessment indicates that pupils reach standards above average for their age by the time they leave at the end of Year 4. All groups of pupils make equally good progress. Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities make good progress as a result of carefully planned provision, based on individual education plans which are well matched to their needs.

Personal development and well-being

Grade: 2

Pupils' personal development and well-being are good. Pupils like coming to school; they enjoy their work and take pride in their achievement. Relationships are very good and all pupils and adults work well together. Attendance and behaviour are good.

Social, moral, cultural and spiritual development is good. Pupils have a good understanding of different cultures and understand the difference between right and wrong. Their social development is enriched by a wide range of activities that encourage them to work together. Pupils play an active part in the running of the school through their participation in the work of the school council.

Pupils have a good understanding of the importance of healthy lifestyles. They appreciate the importance of a healthy diet and physical exercise. Pupils understand the importance of developing their basic skills and the need to prepare for the next stage of their education. They also develop a good range of computer skills and are prepared well for their future economic well-being.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade: 2

Teaching and learning are good. Lessons are well planned and teachers have a very good knowledge of their pupils as individuals. Teachers provide clear instructions and match work carefully to the range of needs in their class.

Targets set are accurate and pupils make good progress through carefully structured activities. Pupils are attentive in lessons and work well in groups, pairs and independently. All pupils make consistently good progress throughout the school. Standards in reading are now rising as a result of the intervention strategies that the school has put in place alongside its careful monitoring of pupils' progress. Teaching assistants support pupils well in lessons. They help pupils to understand the purpose of the lesson and show them how to improve.

Teachers make good use of resources such as the interactive whiteboards and involve pupils actively in their work. They use careful questioning well to further improve pupils' learning, although pupils could be better involved in assessing their own work.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade: 3

The curriculum is satisfactory. The school has recently improved its curriculum and it is structured in order to meet the needs of all pupils. The school has placed a strong focus on literacy and numeracy; it is now improving the provision for other subjects and is also increasing the range of visits and visitors to support pupils' learning. The needs of pupils in mixed age classes are well met because of the care the school takes to ensure that all pupils achieve as well as they can. Sporting activities are being developed well through a programme of links with other schools, particularly in dance. ICT is also developing well in the school, thanks to the expertise of support staff. Art is becoming a strength of the school and is celebrated through good quality displays. The Foundation Stage curriculum is satisfactory overall but the children's access to outdoor play is restricted. The school is aware of the need to improve this.

Care, guidance and support

Grade: 2

The school takes good care of its pupils. Parents have a good opinion of the school and know that their children are well cared for. The school's measures to ensure health and safety are good and there are clear child protection procedures. The school ensures that pupils know what to do if they are worried or concerned and know what to do in an emergency. The school ensures that all pupils have two hours of physical exercise, including swimming, each week; it provides fruit to encourage healthy eating and drinking water when pupils are thirsty. The procedures for tracking pupils' progress are good, particularly in the basic skills of literacy and numeracy. Although pupils understand their targets, they are not sufficiently involved in evaluating their own progress. Pupils with learning difficulties are well supported and included in the life of the school. In the Foundation Stage, staff assess pupils well and use the results to ensure that the children make the progress that they should. The high level of mobility of pupils is managed very well. The school actively promotes pupils' participation in decision-making through the school council.

Leadership and management

Grade: 2

The leadership and management of the school are good. The headteacher takes a strong lead in improving standards. The school's self-evaluation is effective and accurate and the school's performance is examined in detail to ensure that all pupils make good progress. The headteacher is well supported by the deputy headteacher, working in close partnership with subject leaders to improve the school. As a result, teaching and learning are monitored methodically and areas of weakness are identified

for improvement. Governance is good. The governors are well informed and fully involved in school improvement. The school's good improvement plan gives clear direction to its work. Finances are well managed. Parents are well informed and their views on new initiatives are taken into account. The school has improved considerably since the previous inspection and has the capacity to improve further.

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Inspection judgements

<i>Key to judgements: grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory, and grade 4 inadequate</i>	School Overall	16-19
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Overall effectiveness

How effective, efficient and inclusive is the provision of education, integrated care and any extended services in meeting the needs of learners?	2	NA
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being?	2	NA
The quality and standards in foundation stage	2	NA
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	2	NA
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	Yes	NA
Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes	NA

Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	2	NA
The standards ¹ reached by learners	2	NA
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners	2	NA
How well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress	2	NA

Personal development and well-being

How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the learners?	2	NA
The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	2	NA
The behaviour of learners	2	NA
The attendance of learners	2	NA
How well learners enjoy their education	2	NA
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	2	NA
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	2	NA
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution to the community	2	NA
How well learners develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being	2	NA

The quality of provision

How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of the learners' needs?	2	NA
How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners?	3	NA
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	2	NA

¹ Grade 1 - Exceptionally and consistently high; Grade 2 - Generally above average with none significantly below average; Grade 3 - Broadly average; Grade 4 - Exceptionally low.

Leadership and management

How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?	2	NA
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	2	NA
How effectively performance is monitored, evaluated and improved to meet challenging targets, through quality assurance and self-review	2	NA
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can	2	NA
How effectively and efficiently resources are deployed to achieve value for money	2	NA
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	2	NA
The adequacy and suitability of staff to ensure that learners are protected	Yes	NA

The extent to which schools enable learners to be healthy	
Learners are encouraged and enabled to eat and drink healthily	Yes
Learners are encouraged and enabled to take regular exercise	Yes
Learners are discouraged from smoking and substance abuse	Yes
Learners are educated about sexual health	Yes
The extent to which providers ensure that learners stay safe	
Procedures for safeguarding learners meet current government requirements	Yes
Risk assessment procedures and related staff training are in place	Yes
Action is taken to reduce anti-social behaviour, such as bullying and racism	Yes
Learners are taught about key risks and how to deal with them	Yes
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution	
Learners are helped to develop stable, positive relationships	Yes
Learners, individually and collectively, participate in making decisions that affect them	Yes
Learners are encouraged to initiate, participate in and manage activities in school and the wider community	Yes
The extent to which schools enable learners to achieve economic well-being	
There is provision to promote learners' basic skills	Yes
Learners have opportunities to develop enterprise skills and work in teams	Yes
Careers education and guidance is provided to all learners in key stage 3 and 4 and the sixth form	NA
Education for all learners aged 14–19 provides an understanding of employment and the economy	NA

Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Alexandra House

33 Kingsway

London

WC2B 6SE

T 0207 421 6800

F 0207 421 6707

Ofsted helpline

08456 404045

The Children

Longhoughton Church of England First School

Longhoughton

Alnwick

Northumberland

NE66 3AJ

29 March 2006

Dear Children

Thank you for making me so welcome in your school and for your help during the school's recent inspection. I thought you were polite, courteous and well behaved and worked hard in your lessons. The displays of your work are good, particularly the art displays. You take part in a range of exciting activities which help you to learn about the world.

I enjoyed talking to you and listening to what you had to say about the school.

Your school is a good school. You have a good headteacher, teachers and support staff who all make sure that you do well. You told me that you like your school and enjoy your lessons. You know a lot about staying safe and being healthy from your work in school.

Your headteacher and governors also have the right ideas about improving your school. There are three things that we have asked them to do now. We would like them help the children in Foundation Stage to play outside more. We would like the school to improve reading in Years 1 and 2. We would also like the school to involve you more in finding out how to improve your learning.

I wish you all every success in the future.

Yours faithfully

David Shearsmith

Lead Inspector