



Bedonwell Junior School

Inspection Report

Unique Reference Number 101420
Local Authority Bexley
Inspection number 286053
Inspection dates 28–29 November 2006
Reporting inspector Wendy Simmons

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

Type of school	Junior	School address	Bedonwell Road
School category	Community		Belvedere
Age range of pupils	7–11		DA17 5PF
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Telephone number	020 8310 4174
Number on roll (school)	474	Fax number	020 8312 2862
Appropriate authority	The governing body	Chair	Mr David Hurt
		Headteacher	Mr Ivor Gordo
Date of previous school inspection	21 January 2002		

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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by three Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

This large and popular school educates a culturally diverse mix of pupils, although most are from White British backgrounds. The other largest group come from Asian British backgrounds. Pupils come from average social circumstances and almost all have attended the adjacent infant school. Standards on entry are rising and are above average at the beginning of Year 3. An average proportion of pupils have learning difficulties. The school is working towards entering for an 'Artsmark' award in 2007 having already gained: 'National Healthy Schools Status,' 'ECO School' (Green Flag), 'Basic Skills Charter Mark' and 'Investors in People'.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 2

Bedonwell is a good school that is well focused on working towards becoming outstanding in the future. Every child matters at this school and they receive a good all-round education. The words of one parent sum this up well: 'I am very happy with the whole package, education, the child's personal development.' Parents have confidence in the school and value the work of the staff. Pupils have very positive attitudes and acquire a diverse range of skills that prepare them extremely well for their future lives. Notably, pupils' personal development and well-being are outstanding.

The work of the headteacher, his deputy and senior staff is a significant factor behind the school's success. A strong team of staff provide good teaching and learning opportunities and a very interesting curriculum. Staff know pupils well, have high expectations for them and relationships are very good. In return, pupils work hard, contributing much to the life of the school.

As a result of good leadership and management, many aspects of the school have improved since the last inspection. Notably, standards are now significantly above average by the end of Year 6. Achievement is good and this has improved from satisfactory at the time of the last inspection. More able pupils are doing especially well. The school accurately identified that some pupils with learning difficulties did not make as much progress as other groups of learners. Focused action has resulted in this group now making good progress in reading, mathematics and in their social skills. Plans are in place to improve writing so that their satisfactory progress can be raised to good.

Pupils are rightly proud of their achievements and enthusiastic. Inspectors agree with them when they comment that they are well cared for. Pupils also confirm that the school helps them to become more confident. Most importantly, they like their teachers, saying, 'They encourage everyone to do everything,' and, 'Learning is fun. It helps you to think about your life and teachers are nice to you.' As a result, pupils enjoy learning, make good progress and behave exceptionally well.

What the school should do to improve further

- Help pupils with learning difficulties to make quicker progress in developing their writing skills.

Achievement and standards

Grade: 2

The standards that pupils reach by the end of Year 6 are significantly above average in English, mathematics and science. Pupils leave this school with strong basic skills that prepare them well for the future. Pupils' achievement is good. This school is placed in the top 16% of schools in the country for enhancing pupils' achievement.

Pupils with complex difficulties or a statement of special educational need make good progress. However, those with other learning difficulties make satisfactory progress. The school is working well to raise this group's progress so that it is as good as that of other groups of learners. For example, the range of support has increased and is now resulting in good progress in reading and mathematics but this group are not working in such a focused way on improving their writing skills. The most able and average ability pupils make good progress. This is due to teachers' high expectations, the provision of challenging and interesting activities and the modification of lessons. As a result, skills build up in a quick and systematic way.

Personal development and well-being

Grade: 1

Very good relationships ensure that most pupils are happy at school and keen to do their best. Pupils' above average attendance rates reflect their enthusiasm for school. They have a good understanding of the importance of healthy lifestyles and enjoy learning as evident in the outstanding 'Eco Club'. This enables pupils to make a very strong contribution to the community through recycling. Pupils noted that the 'Eco Club' provides, 'Fun by linking art, literacy and information and communication technology (ICT).' Pupils sing well and perform with the school's orchestra. The choir regularly performs at school events and each year sing at a local church and shopping centre to raise money for charity. Pupils actively participate in many local sporting activities. Spiritual development through assembly activities is outstanding and pupils are helped to understand and respect different faiths, cultures and feelings. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness is outstanding overall.

Pupils develop important personal qualities that prepare them extremely well for the future. Not only do they acquire an impressive range of basic skills but they know how to co-operate, overcome anger, take responsibility, negotiate and care for others. They understand how to be safe in the world around them and behave exceptionally well, showing a strong understanding about how to manage bullying if it should occur. Pupils enjoy learning how to manage money and take up new hobbies, such as gardening. Overall, they grow in confidence, as seen in their articulate discussions with inspectors. In the words of one pupil, 'Lots of praise helps us to feel good about ourselves.' This helps pupils to show their initiative and work confidently with others.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade: 2

Lessons are usually very interesting and activities are well matched to the needs of most pupils, enabling them to learn well and make good progress. However, activities are not always well planned to help pupils with learning difficulties to make better progress in their writing skills. Teachers have good subject knowledge, manage their classes well and have very good relationships with their pupils. This inspires pupils to

concentrate and do their best. Teachers' good explanation skills, questioning and use of visual aids help pupils to learn new things quickly. Teaching assistants make a valuable contribution to pupils' learning in reading and mathematics. Pupils make good use of ICT to undertake research and to support their learning in other subjects. The library space is very cramped but pupils enjoy using books to find out new things. Pupils' progress and learning are enriched by good community links and the promotion of social and emotional education, especially through assembly themes.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade: 2

The curriculum meets the needs of pupils well and interesting activities and good links between subject areas make learning enjoyable for pupils. Provision for numeracy, literacy, science and ICT are all good overall. The school is working to make this even better by expanding writing opportunities for some pupils with learning difficulties. Many pupils participate in the good range of after school clubs and activities and these support their musical, creative and sporting interests especially well. Themes, such as a 'multicultural week', productions and school visits add considerably to the quality of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The outstanding provision for pupils' personal development enables them to be very well prepared for the future.

Care, guidance and support

Grade: 2

The school provides good care guidance and support and is especially successful in guiding the development of pupils' social skills. Child protection procedures are robust and pastoral care is good. Senior teachers, trained supervisors and pupil 'Guardian Angels' help pupils to have fun and play together well. Staff take pupils' comments seriously. For example, school council members are rightly proud of their involvement with staff to overcome bullying concerns. The improved system for monitoring pupils' progress is beginning to raise the achievement of pupils with learning difficulties. All pupils' progress is closely monitored, and most know their targets for improvement. Pupils' work is marked thoroughly but pupils are not given enough time in lessons to respond to the good suggestions given to improve their work.

Leadership and management

Grade: 2

The school's self evaluation is good. The headteacher and senior staff have high expectations and a clear vision for improvement. The development plan focuses well on improving the management and provision for pupils' with learning difficulties. Leaders delegate responsibilities well and encourage staff to develop their roles. Together, staff maintain a forward thinking, welcoming, secure and friendly working environment for pupils and staff. Middle managers and year group leaders are improving learning opportunities and ensure that pupils' progress is carefully monitored. The school has a good capacity to improve as reflected in higher standards, improved

achievement and the promotion of pupils' outstanding personal development. Governors give good support to the school and are rightly ambitious in their expectations. Effective links with parents aid pupils' achievement and school improvement.

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Inspection judgements

Key to judgements: grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory, and grade 4 inadequate	School Overall
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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
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being?	2
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	2
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	2
Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes

Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	2
The standards ¹ reached by learners	2
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners	2
How well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress	3

Personal development and well-being

How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the learners?	1
The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	1
The behaviour of learners	1
The attendance of learners	2
How well learners enjoy their education	2
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	2
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution to the community	1
How well learners develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being	1

The quality of provision

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

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

Leadership and management

How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?	2
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	2
How effectively performance is monitored, evaluated and improved to meet challenging targets	2
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can	2
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	2
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	2
Do procedures for safeguarding learners meet current government requirements?	Yes
Does this school require special measures?	No
Does this school require a notice to improve?	No

Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

You may remember that four inspectors came to your school recently to find out how well you are doing. Thank you for being so friendly and telling us about your school. We are writing to let you know what we found out.

Your school is a good school. Clearly you enjoy learning and value all that the staff do for you. Good teaching and learning opportunities help almost all of you to make good progress and reach high standards. Your teachers often give you useful ideas about how to improve your work. Please help them by trying to find some time at school or at home to follow these up. You behave extremely well and come to school regularly; this is a great credit to you all. Well done for being polite, respectful, and helpful to each other. Notably, we are very impressed by the work of the 'Guardian Angels' and the outstanding work of the 'Eco Club'. You can be very proud of this because it means that you are not only having fun but are making a very strong contribution to your community. We know that you really enjoy taking part in sporting activities. Overall, your personal and social skills are outstanding. You are well cared for and make good progress because your teachers work hard to make learning interesting and challenging. All of these things, when added together, help you to be exceptionally well prepared for your future lives.

Most importantly, the school is well led. Your headteacher and all of the staff and governors are working especially hard to make the school even better. We have asked them to help those of you who sometimes find learning a bit difficult to have more help with writing.

I do hope that your Christmas performances go well, as you deserve to be congratulated on your wonderful singing and hard-working orchestra.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Simmons

Lead inspector