

Coulsdon Nursery School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	101703
Local Authority	Croydon
Inspection number	286152
Inspection date	22 March 2007
Reporting inspector	Sue Vale

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

Type of school	Nursery
School category	Maintained
Age range of pupils	3-5
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	53
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr E Denley
Headteacher	Mr M Rosewell
Date of previous school inspection	28 February 2001
School address	Linden Avenue Coulsdon CR5 3BT
Telephone number	01737 553 860
Fax number	01737 558 455

Age group	3-5
Inspection date	22 March 2007
Inspection number	286152

© Crown copyright 2007

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Further copies of this report are obtainable from the school. Under the Education Act 2005, the school must provide a copy of this report free of charge to certain categories of people. A charge not exceeding the full cost of reproduction may be made for any other copies supplied.

Introduction

The inspection was carried out by an Additional Inspector.

Description of the school

Coulsdon Nursery School is situated in Croydon. Approximately two thirds of the children are of UK heritage. Fewer than 10% of children are learning English as an Additional Language. There are a smaller than average number who are identified with learning difficulties or disabilities. The Nursery became federated with Chipstead Valley Primary School in April 2006.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 2

Coulsdon Nursery is a good school and children receive a good start to their education. The headteacher has a clear understanding of the strengths of the Nursery and what it needs to do to develop further. Governors make a strong contribution and are fully supportive of the Nursery's work and its development.

Most of the children begin school with skills expected of children of this age. Around a third of the children are identified as more able and the Nursery is responding well to their particular needs and requirements. Consistently good teaching and an interesting, varied curriculum, in which children are encouraged to be independent, helps them to settle in quickly and make good progress. By the time they leave Nursery, they make good progress in their communication, language and literacy, mathematical development, knowledge and understanding, creative and physical development. They make exceptional progress in their personal, social and emotional development. Well planned practical activities allow children to develop their own interests and abilities independently. This provides them with a strong foundation for the next stage of their education. Within this positive picture, there are missed opportunities for teachers to fully develop the children's next steps in their learning.

Children's personal development and well-being are outstanding. They are very happy and keen to be at Nursery, although attendance amongst some families does not always reflect this. The care, guidance and support provided for pupils are good. Children receive a positive start to their school life because the staff have a high commitment to meeting the needs of all children. There are regular observations made of what children know and can do and these are celebrated in children's individual profiles.

The Nursery has maintained good standards since the last inspection, and it has good capacity to improve still further.

What the school should do to improve further

- Review the system for setting 'next steps' in children's learning.
- Encourage better attendance.

Achievement and standards

Grade: 2

The children achieve well. They rise to the challenges they are set in their learning and make good progress in acquiring new skills, knowledge and understanding. The outstanding focus on developing children's positive self-esteem, confidence and independence is highly influential in helping children to make good progress and to become confident independent learners. Most children reach above expected levels in their personal, social and emotional development. The majority reach expected levels in all areas of learning, but there are increasing numbers of children, around a third, who are reaching standards above those expected for their age. The Nursery supports these more able pupils very well through a variety of challenging activities. Those children at an early stage of learning English make as good progress as their peers. As one mother points out 'His English is now so good that he is able to argue in English!' Well planned activities openly encourage speaking and communication skills. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities also make good progress and achieve well through the encouragement and good interaction with staff.

Personal development and well-being

Grade: 1

The children make outstanding progress in their personal development. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good. The children are very happy and keen to learn. This is really helped by the newly developed outdoor learning environment. The children quickly become independent and confident learners and they respond very well to the high expectations adults set for them. A parent commented, 'The staffs' commitment to making the children as independent as possible is particularly evident.'

They readily accept guidance and show mature attitudes for their age in choosing activities and trying out new experiences. Excellent, well placed adult intervention allows children to refine and develop their thinking so that they work things out for themselves. Children work safely and enjoy healthy snacks and meals. Cooking sessions such as making 'smoothies' are used to teach children about the benefits of healthy eating. Attendance however is low despite the Nursery actively encouraging families to attend.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade: 2

Teaching and learning are good with some very good features. Teachers' very good knowledge of the early year's curriculum and of individual children's interests and abilities mean that children make good progress in their learning and achieve well. Teachers regularly observe what children are interested in, and children themselves select pieces of work which they are pleased with and keep them in their own individual portfolios. Children enjoy learning because teachers encourage them to make their own independent choices and because there is a wide range of activities on offer.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade: 2

The varied curriculum promotes interesting and practical activities both inside and outdoors. The Nursery is arranged for a free-flow of movement so that children can experience the same range of activities whether they are inside or out. This supports children's own freedom of choice and is why their personal and social development is excellent. The use of information and communication technology by children is satisfactory overall.

Care, guidance and support

Grade: 2

The care, guidance and support provided for pupils are good. Children receive a good start to their school life. As one parent commented, 'there is a very good awareness of the children and their needs.' Care and support for children with learning difficulties and disabilities is very good and valued by the parents of these children. Child protection procedures are fully in place and are understood and followed by staff. Risk assessments and procedures for monitoring the health and safety of the children are robust. Children's progress is tracked through their individual portfolios to highlight their achievements, and whilst targets are set there are missed opportunities to fully use these to support the next step in children's learning.

Leadership and management

Grade: 2

Leadership and management are good. There is a strong sense of commitment to the children and very good team work throughout the Nursery. The headteacher, along with the Chair of Governors, has a clear vision for the development of the Nursery through a greater involvement of the community. The leadership has clearly recognised the Nursery's strengths and areas for development. Good procedures for day-to-day management ensure that things run smoothly when the head teacher is away from Nursery visiting the other site in the federation. The governing body is very supportive and they are clear in their understanding of what is working well and what can be improved. They ask relevant and pertinent questions. Parents are fully included in their children's education and questionnaires are sent out to seek their opinions of how the Nursery could be improved. The regular 'drop in' for parents and younger siblings is proving popular.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints about school inspection', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Annex A

Inspection judgements

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

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?	1
The quality and standards in the Foundation Stage	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	2

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	2
The behaviour of learners	1
The attendance of learners	4
How well learners enjoy their education	1
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	1
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	1
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.

Annex A

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

It was lovely to meet you when I came to visit your Nursery. I enjoyed watching you make 'smoothies' and pastry.

Coulsdon Nursery is a good school. There are lots of things which you do well.

- You are very happy and like coming to your Nursery.
- Some of you are very grown up and can do lots of things for yourselves.
- You are very good at making your own independent choices and your teachers help you to do this very well.
- There are lots of interesting things for you to try and have a go at.
- You are looked after very well.

In order to make the Nursery even better, I have asked your headteacher to look at the way your teachers decide what you should learn next. Some of you do not come to Nursery often enough. I hope that you will explain to your families how much you enjoy Nursery and try to go every day.

Best wishes

Sue Vale
Lead inspector