

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary RC Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	111676
Local Authority	Stockton-on-Tees
Inspection number	289026
Inspection dates	13 June 2007
Reporting inspector	Mrs Carole Cressey

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

Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	3–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	161
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mrs Sue Wetherall
Headteacher	Mr John Lyons
Date of previous school inspection	December 2002
School address	Rievaulx Avenue Billingham TS23 2BS
Telephone number	01642 552274
Fax number	01642 551135

Age group	3–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by an Additional Inspector.

Description of the school

Most children come from White British backgrounds. The surrounding area has pockets of significant social and economic disadvantage. The proportion of pupils who are entitled to free school meals is average. The percentage of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is broadly average but is increasing significantly with each new intake into the nursery. Children start school with skills below those expected for their ages.

The Inspector evaluated the overall effectiveness of the school and investigated progress, achievement and standards, personal development and well being, and care guidance and support. Evidence was gathered from the school's self-evaluation, national and school assessment data, policies and minutes, observation of the school at work, interviews with staff and pupils, and the parents' questionnaires. Other aspects of the school's work were not investigated in detail, but the inspector found no evidence to suggest that the school's own assessments were not justified and these have been included where appropriate in the report.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 1

The school's Mission Statement reads: 'Our school should be a beacon of good education and an oasis of Christian love within the educational community'.

This school certainly lives up to this and has made considerable strides since the previous inspection. The school's success is due to the very strong Christian belief, which is tangible in all aspects of the school's provision. It judges itself as good but the inspection believes this to be modest and judges it as an outstanding school, which is exceptionally well led and managed. The headteacher is well supported by an excellent leadership team. They share his passionate commitment, enthusiasm and determination that have created a school where the outstanding quality of care, well-being, enjoyment and achievement of every pupil are central to its work.

Children's skills on entry to the school are below those expected for their ages, especially in literacy and personal development. However, because the quality of the teaching, curriculum and care are outstanding they become very confident and successful learners. This is reflected in their excellent behaviour, self-assurance and the high standards they achieve in their work.

Once children are immersed in the exciting, practical and challenging activities, which are such a very strong feature of teaching, they thrive. Lessons buzz with excitement, good humour and warm, relaxed relationships. Progress is rapid in the Nursery and Reception. By the time children move into Year 1, the majority reach the learning goals expected for their ages and are well launched into reading, writing and number. This excellent start is built on throughout the school and pupils continue to work very hard and achieve outstandingly well. At the end of Year 2 and Year 6, standards have consistently been significantly above the national average.

The school's data and self-evaluation indicate that because of improved assessments and good and outstanding teaching across the school, the present Year 6 reach standards that are higher than in previous years in all subjects. Almost every pupil reaches the expected level in reading, writing, mathematics and science and over half are reaching the higher levels. The outstanding way the school nurtures those pupils with complex learning difficulties and/or disabilities is second to none and, as a result, they make excellent progress toward their targets and often reach the expected level for their ages.

The key to pupils' success is the way teachers focus on children as individuals and provide them with the tools to be confident learners who know precisely what they need to do to improve their work. This begins in the Foundation Stage where children identify what they have done well and what can be improved by marking their work with a 'tickled pink' marker or a 'grumpy green' one. As pupils move through the school, they become more and more involved in marking their own work to see how they can improve. They learn to have high expectations of what they can do and to take helpful criticism and advice from their teachers and classmates.

Through regular and rigorous tests, observations and marking of work, teachers identify if pupils are making the progress they should. Extra support is provided for

pupils whose progress slackens or those who learn at a much faster rate. This support, for instance, is in the form of an extra 20 minutes at the start of school and for pupils in Year 6 it can be attending the 'Early Bird Club' to provide extra help in preparation for their national tests. Flexible grouping allows pupils who make rapid progress to work in a higher group and, similarly, those who may be struggling can work with younger pupils.

The excellent emphasis throughout the school on literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology is making a vital contribution to pupils' future role in society and their economic well-being. The school provides excellent opportunities for pupils to become proficient musicians. Every child learns to play a musical instrument and to speak a foreign language. An excellent programme of social and health education provides the pupils with the necessary tools to develop personal safety, care and healthy living. There is a wide range of out of school clubs, trips and visitors, enriching pupils' learning and personal skills.

This excellent climate for learning ensures that pupils' personal development, including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, is outstanding. Pupils show considerable exuberance and enjoyment for learning whether they are in lessons or taking part in clubs and visits. They are particularly kind to pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, or those who sometimes might be feeling unhappy or worried. Older pupils, for instance, are learning sign language so they can communicate with children who have hearing impairments at a neighbouring school. There is a very good understanding of bullying and pupils know just what to do if they find it occurring. Pupils know that a balanced diet and regular exercise are essential for a healthy lifestyle. They say that the school's 'Huff and Puff, Wake and Shake and Tai Chi' programmes strengthen vital organs, and pump up the blood vessels so that they can get on with their work better.' Pupils show a very mature responsibility for their local and global community. The school council takes its role very seriously and is very proud of the impact it has had in creating a new adventure playground. Pupils have strong links with children in China, Germany and India. Through one of their successful financial efforts, they are learning at first hand the importance of Fair Trade in helping poorer communities around the world provide shelter, warmth and schools for their families.

The school knows that only if children are fit, healthy and emotionally secure will they be able to be effective learners. For example, a breakfast club ensures that children start the day well and counselling is available if children experience personal problems. Beautiful displays, religious artefacts, music, gardens full of scented flowers, and a place to reflect, pray and just be quiet and calm, provide an excellent environment for children to learn.

Parents put great emphasis on the way the school helps them to be involved in their children's education and they have complete confidence in the school. Typical comments included, 'The school creates a secure and calming environment for the teaching and development of the children' and 'Every day I know I made the right choice in choosing Holy Rosary for my daughter'. They are spot on. This is an outstanding school and it is well placed to continue to provide an excellent education for its children.

What the school should do to improve further

- There are no significant areas to improve.

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

Annex A

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?	1
The quality and standards in the Foundation Stage	1
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	1

Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	1
The standards ¹ reached by learners	1

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
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 learners' needs?	1
How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners?	1
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	1

Leadership and management

How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?	1
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

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.



15 June 2007

Dear Children

Inspection of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary RC Primary School,
Billingham, TS23 2BS

Thank you for being so friendly and welcoming when I visited your school a short while ago.

These are the important things I liked about your school.

- It was good to see how very well behaved you are and how much you enjoy all the exciting activities in your school.
- You are learning to speak Spanish and some Chinese and you have so many friends in lots of different countries. That is really helping you to become good citizens of the world. How responsible to learn about the importance of Fair Trade to people who are so much poorer than you are. Well done!
- It was very pleasing to see the way you care for each other and how you are learning sign language so that you can talk with pupils who have hearing difficulties.
- I could see by the work in your books and displays around the school that you are all doing well in reading, writing, mathematics and science. You know the importance of eating sensible food and taking lots of exercise. Do keep that up because it is so important to staying healthy and happy. Wake and Shake and Tai Chi are such fun ways to stay healthy.
- I particularly liked the way you mark your own work so that you know what you need to do next to improve. That is one of the reasons you do so well in your tests.
- The Oasis room is a lovely place to relax and say prayers in a quiet and beautiful place

You go to an excellent school. Do remember to always work really hard and learn lots and lots of new and exciting things. I hope you will continue to enjoy school as much as you do now and that it will help you to become happy and successful adults.

Yours sincerely

Carole Cressey (Lead Inspector)