



# Oswaldtwistle West End Primary School

## Inspection Report

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**Unique Reference Number** 119188  
**Local Authority** Lancashire  
**Inspection number** 291350  
**Inspection date** 19 September 2006  
**Reporting inspector** Kathleen McArthur

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

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<b>Type of school</b>	Primary	<b>School address</b>	Aspen Lane
<b>School category</b>	Community		Oswaldtwistle, Accrington
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	4-11		Lancashire, BB5 4QA
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed	<b>Telephone number</b>	01254 234584
<b>Number on roll (school)</b>	207	<b>Fax number</b>	01254 393813
<b>Appropriate authority</b>	The governing body	<b>Chair</b>	Mrs Marian Barrett
		<b>Headteacher</b>	Miss Janet Aspinall
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	Not previously inspected		

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## Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one Additional Inspector.

## Description of the school

This average sized school stands on the hillside on the outskirts of Oswaldtwistle. The school is well supported by parents and enjoys a very good reputation locally so there is keen competition for places. The percentage of pupils entitled to a free school meal is low. Nearly all the pupils are of White British origin and all speak English as their first language. An average percentage of pupils has learning difficulties and or/disabilities, and there are a small number of looked after children.

## Key for inspection grades

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

## Overall effectiveness of the school

### Grade: 1

This is an outstanding school that gives very good value for money. The inspection found the school had been modest in underestimating its performance in some areas. The inspirational leadership of the headteacher is at the heart of the school's success. She is ably supported by senior managers, the governing body and staff. Together, they have established extremely good working relationships based on a shared vision of high quality provision for every pupil. There are strong, productive partnerships with parents and local schools. The outcome is a very happy environment where all pupils flourish, achieve outstandingly and attain very high standards. High calibre teaching ensures pupils make rapid progress throughout the school. The vast majority reach significantly higher than average standards by the time they leave the school. Children enter school with levels of attainment typical for their age. The excellent provision in the Foundation Stage ensures that children make a very good start to school. They reach the expected learning goals well before the end of Reception.

Pupils are full of praise for their school and the care it provides. They said how much they enjoy learning. Typical statements were, 'the teachers are good and make lessons fun' and 'everyone is kind and I have lots of friends'. Parents overwhelmingly support these views. They are really pleased that their children enjoy school so much and are keen to attend each day. Many commented how the school has helped their child grow in confidence academically, emotionally and socially. The quality of care shown to all pupils is outstanding. Excellent relationships between staff and pupils stimulate and support learning. Academic guidance is very good. Staff keep a close eye on each pupil's performance and quickly target extra help where needed.

Personal and social development is outstanding, illustrated in pupils' excellent behaviour, well above average attendance and keen enthusiasm for learning. This in turn ensures that they make rapid progress and attain high standards. Pupils know very well how to stay safe and healthy. Older pupils act as 'buddies' to help Foundation Stage children settle confidently into the school community. High academic standards and good information, communication and technology (ICT) skills prepare pupils very well for their future economic well-being. The school has yet to develop sufficient ways to help prepare pupils for their future life in a multicultural society.

The good curriculum effectively meets the needs of all learners and is enriched well by visits and visitors. The school is really successful, but is not content to 'rest on its laurels'. Self-evaluation is extremely searching. Areas for development are thoroughly addressed through improvement planning and staff development. Issues from the previous inspection have been successfully overcome, for example, by greatly improving the range of ICT equipment available for children. Building work on the new hall is delaying the provision of a secure outdoor learning area for Foundation Stage children, but this is in hand. There is outstanding capacity for further improvement.

## What the school should do to improve further

- Extend pupils' cultural development so they are better prepared for life in a multicultural society.

## Achievement and standards

### Grade: 1

Standards are well above average throughout the school in English, mathematics and science. Very good teaching, pupils' enjoyment of school and above average attendance all contribute strongly to their academic success and outstanding achievement. Children enter the school with skills typical for their age. They thrive in the warm, stimulating environment. The very good progress begun in Reception continues throughout the school. The school has achieved significantly higher than average results over time, consistently meeting challenging targets.

Standards are also high in all the other subjects and pupils' skills in the use of ICT are much better than at the time of the last inspection, the result of much improved provision. Pupil tracking systems show that any differences in the performance of boys and girls are due to variations in year groups. Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and the looked after children make very good progress because of the excellent support they receive.

## Personal development and well-being

### Grade: 1

Personal development and well-being are outstanding, as are most aspects of the provision for pupils' spiritual, moral and social development. Their cultural development is good but opportunities for pupils to learn about different ways of life in preparation for their future in a multicultural society are limited to the study of different religions. Pupils become mature, sensible and reliable members of the school community. Their enjoyment of all activities offered by the school shows clearly in excellent behaviour and well above average levels of attendance, all of which support their learning most effectively. Pupils helped create the school's 'golden rules'. They say school is a safe place to be, it is free from bullying and they are happy to approach any member of staff for help. Pupils are encouraged to make healthy food choices. They successfully negotiated with staff for playground games equipment for more physical activities at breaktimes. Pupils enjoy art and music. For example, the choir visits local elderly people and participates annually in a massed music event. High academic standards and good ICT skills mean pupils are very well prepared for their future economic well-being.

## **Quality of provision**

### **Teaching and learning**

#### **Grade: 1**

The very high quality of teaching throughout the school ensures that pupils achieve outstandingly and attain high standards. Teachers have high expectations of what their pupils can achieve. Pupils rise to the challenge and are keen to learn. Lessons are thoroughly planned with interesting and meaningful activities. Pupils really appreciate the way teachers make learning fun. Excellent use of assessment data ensures pupils' differing needs and abilities are met well. As a result, all groups of pupils progress at a very good rate. Foundation Stage staff have an excellent understanding of how young children learn, and skilfully provide exciting activities that appeal to their natural inquisitiveness.

### **Curriculum and other activities**

#### **Grade: 2**

The curriculum is good and is suitably adapted for all learners. Consequently, all groups of pupils progress very well. Boys' achievements have improved due to the skilful use of material that will appeal to them, such as a biography of the footballer, Alan Shearer. Visitors and visits out of school, for example a science visit to The Blue Planet Aquarium and a residential stay, provide effective enrichment. Valuable links with a local high school and the good use of additional equipment have enhanced pupils' ICT skills. The good range of after-school clubs is popular, covering sports, science and music, but most clubs are for older pupils and more could be made available for the younger ones. Foundation Stage children meet a rich curriculum specifically targeted to their age.

### **Care, guidance and support**

#### **Grade: 1**

The outstanding level of care, guidance and support for all pupils contributes strongly to their confidence, enjoyment and very good progress. Parents rightly feel their children are well cared for. Staff work hard to ensure pupils' happiness and welfare, knowing this is vital to their progress. All systems to keep pupils safe are rigorously implemented. Knowledgeable support staff provide skilled assistance. Teachers make very good use of the school's excellent assessment systems. They monitor pupils' progress rigorously, and use the information effectively to ensure that they stay on track. Good induction procedures and a warm, friendly atmosphere give children a secure start in the Foundation Stage. Good transition arrangements ensure that pupils move confidently to the next stage of education. Parents feel the school welcomes them as partners in their child's education.

## Leadership and management

### Grade: 1

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The strong, committed leadership of the headteacher is the key to the outstanding quality of education provided by the school. Her clear vision and enthusiasm has nurtured a willingness to seek even more ways of promoting the academic and personal development of all pupils. The school's performance is carefully evaluated. The high quality of teaching is ensured through regular monitoring. Areas identified for development form the basis of improvement planning. The very strong staff team carry out their subject management roles effectively. They willingly undertake professional development to increase their professional skills and knowledge. Good governance is very supportive and knowledgeable, confident to challenge decisions and initiatives. The budget is astutely managed to support improvements, for example, provision of a new school hall. The school has built well on previous successes and there is outstanding capacity for further improvement.

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## Inspection judgements

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

<b>How effective, efficient and inclusive is the provision of education, integrated care and any extended services in meeting the needs of learners?</b>	1
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being?	1
The quality and standards in the Foundation Stage	1
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	1
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	1
Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes

### Achievement and standards

<b>How well do learners achieve?</b>	1
The standards <sup>1</sup> reached by learners	1
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners	1
How well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress	1

### Personal development and well-being

<b>How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the learners?</b>	1
The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	2
The behaviour of learners	1
The attendance of learners	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

<b>How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of the learners' needs?</b>	1
<b>How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners?</b>	2
<b>How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?</b>	1

<sup>1</sup> 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

<b>How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?</b>	1
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	1
How effectively performance is monitored, evaluated and improved to meet challenging targets	1
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can	1
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	1
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**

Oswaldtwistle West End Primary School

Aspen Lane

Oswaldtwistle

Accrington

Lancashire

BB5 4QA

19 September 2006

Dear Children

You may remember that I visited your school recently. I would like to thank you for making me so welcome and helping me with my work. You obviously enjoy coming to school an awful lot. I was really impressed by your friendliness and by your very good manners when I had my lunch with you. You are a credit to the school and to your parents.

I found many really good things at your school. It is extremely well led, you are taught so skilfully and you all achieve so well. All the staff care for you so well, and make sure your lessons are interesting and fun. You feel safe in school so you are all happy and everyone gets on really well together. You come to school and work really hard every day – I hope that you will always continue to do so.

I have suggested one thing that will help make your school even better. You need to know more about how other people live because you will meet people from many different cultures as you grow up and move out into the wider world.

Once again, thank you for helping me and making my day with you so enjoyable.

I am sure you will continue to work hard and enjoy everything you do at school.

Yours sincerely

Kathleen McArthur

Lead Inspector