

# Burnwood Nursery School

## Inspection report

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	123949
<b>Local Authority</b>	Stoke-On-Trent
<b>Inspection number</b>	292836
<b>Inspection date</b>	8 June 2007
<b>Reporting inspector</b>	Derek Watts

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>	Nursery
<b>School category</b>	Maintained
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	3–5
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number on roll</b>	
School	54
<b>Appropriate authority</b>	The governing body
<b>Chair</b>	Stephen Pratt
<b>Headteacher</b>	Juliet Levingstone
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	7 November 2001
<b>School address</b>	Chell Heath Road Chell Heath Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6PB
<b>Telephone number</b>	01782 234416
<b>Fax number</b>	01782 234416

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## Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one Additional Inspector.

## Description of the school

Burnwood Nursery School provides education for children from the immediate area. The school serves an area of social deprivation where unemployment is high. The vast majority of children come from a White British background. There are very few children who speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties is well above average. Children's attainment when they start in Nursery is much lower than is typically found. Their communication and language skills are particularly low.

## Key for inspection grades

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

## Overall effectiveness of the school

### Grade: 1

Burnwood is an outstanding nursery school. The children make exceptionally good progress in all areas of learning. Children, parents and staff work towards the school's motto of 'Learn, Achieve, Succeed' in this highly successful organisation.

Parents are delighted with the care and education provided. They particularly value the headteacher, the caring and dedicated staff, the very positive learning environment and the school's partnership with them. The many favourable comments made by parents include, 'A lovely learning environment', 'I am very happy with the progress of my child', 'Fantastic school' and 'The head and staff are worth their weight in gold'.

Excellent leadership and management are at the heart of the school's success and the impressive improvements made. The headteacher's enthusiasm and determination are infectious and inspirational. She successfully leads a talented and committed team of teachers and support staff. All are passionate about doing the very best for all children and their parents. Regular review of practice and effective data analysis mean that the school knows what it does well and takes highly effective action to bring about improvements. Detailed assessments and records mean that the school has a very clear picture of how each individual child is doing. The professional development of staff is one of the school's many strengths and the school is becoming an effective training organisation for other Foundation Stage practitioners. Part of the school's vision and planning is to share the school's remarkable work and to provide further opportunities for its staff to train others.

Excellent care, support and guidance contribute to children's learning and to their outstanding personal development and well-being. Outstanding relationships build children's confidence and they are safe and secure at school. Children love school and this is shown by their enthusiastic participation in all activities and by their high levels of attendance. The school has built strong partnerships with parents and other agencies. Parents are involved in their children's learning, including agreeing individual targets for learning. As one member of the community commented, 'The headteacher and her staff make the nursery school a home from home, not only for the children but also the grown ups'. Children make excellent contributions to the local community.

High quality teaching and learning and an outstanding curriculum contribute significantly to children's outstanding achievement. Children benefit from focused direct teaching as well as having plenty of opportunities to explore and work independently. Lively teaching and stimulating learning activities inspire and motivate the children. They make outstanding progress in all areas of learning and reach standards above those expected for their age by the time they leave. The recently improved outdoor learning area is a great asset which contributes fully to children's enjoyment and development. Children at Burnwood are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their education.

### What the school should do to improve further

- There are no significant areas for improvement but the school is keen to:
- Extend the opportunities for staff to train other practitioners and to share the excellent work going on at Burnwood as identified in the school's development planning.

## **Achievement and standards**

### **Grade: 1**

Children's excellent progress means that by the time they leave the Nursery they are extremely well prepared for the Reception class. The school's successful drive to promote children's communication, language and literacy skills means that from a very low starting point, children progress to expected levels for their age. The school identified that children's physical skills were underdeveloped. The much improved outdoor learning area along with interesting programmes to develop physical skills have effectively tackled this area. Children love number work and standards exceed expectations in mathematical development. More able children are effectively challenged and they reach standards higher than those expected for their age. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities make outstanding progress because of the high quality support and guidance provided.

## **Personal development and well-being**

### **Grade: 1**

Children exceed national expected standards in their personal, social and emotional development. They thoroughly enjoy their learning and this is shown by their enthusiastic participation in the exciting and varied activities provided. As one parent wrote, 'My child loves going to the school'. Children are keen to express their enjoyment for learning: 'My favourite thing is painting', 'I like it on the computers' and 'I like working with construction kits and riding bikes'. The school works successfully with parents to promote good attendance. Children acquire a good understanding of different cultures by celebrating festivals such as Chinese and Japanese New Years. Staff are excellent role models for children and have established outstanding relationships with them. Behaviour is usually exemplary as children play, work and share together in this harmonious community. Children report, 'I've got lots of friends at Nursery'. They are developing a good understanding of how to live a healthy lifestyle and how to keep safe. They know the importance of eating lots of fruit and vegetables and participate in regular exercise. Children make outstanding contributions to the local community such as singing at Hanley City Centre and dancing at the Victoria Hall to celebrate community creative arts. Even at their young age, children are keen to take on additional responsibilities like being the 'special helper'.

## **Quality of provision**

### **Teaching and learning**

#### **Grade: 1**

Teachers and assistants provide an effective blend of focused direct teaching, allowing children to explore, work creatively and independently. Lively and enthusiastic teaching inspires the children and maintains their interest. High quality learning resources are carefully chosen which promote learning very well. Instructions and demonstrations by adults are clear and children watch and listen very carefully to these. Language work effectively pervades all activities and this has a positive impact on children's speaking and listening skills. Children's attainment is accurately assessed and the information is used very well to plan the next steps in their learning. Activities are challenging, exciting and promote high quality learning. Children's work and a record of their achievements are very well organised and presented in their 'Special Books'.

## **Curriculum and other activities**

### **Grade: 1**

The curriculum is extremely well planned and stimulating. It enables all groups of children to make outstanding progress and it contributes exceptionally well to their personal development. All six areas of learning receive thorough attention through interesting topics, such as animals, ourselves, food, colour, toys and traditional stories and rhymes. Highly effective programmes have been devised by the school to develop children's speaking and listening skills and their physical development. A recently improved outdoor learning area is having a positive effect not only on physical skills but on children's knowledge and skills in other areas of learning. As one parent remarked, 'The outdoor play equipment is excellent'. A sensory garden, a woodland tunnel and a recent visit to Ford Green Country Park successfully promote new knowledge and understanding about the natural world. Children's learning is enhanced by visits from different people including fire officers and the school cook. Health and safety education is very well integrated into topics.

## **Care, guidance and support**

### **Grade: 1**

Outstanding induction arrangements and close links between school and parents help to ensure that children settle quickly into the Nursery and thrive. The school has built excellent relationships with the children and their parents; 'Everyone in the school is very helpful to the children and to the parents'. There are highly effective procedures to ensure that all children are thoroughly safe and secure at school. The strong partnerships with local schools and external support agencies all play a part in the school's outstanding provision. Vulnerable children receive outstanding care and support so that they can make exceptional progress. The support and guidance provided to parents are one of the school's many strengths. A parent wrote, 'The family support has been fantastic, I can't fault it'. This enables parents to participate more fully in their children's learning and development. There are highly effective systems for assessing children's attainment. Assessment is used well to plan children's learning and for parents and staff to agree individual learning targets for children.

## **Leadership and management**

### **Grade: 1**

Excellent leadership and management at all levels is the key to the school's success and to the outstanding improvements since the last inspection. The headteacher is enthusiastic, inspirational and strongly focused on doing the very best for the children and their parents. Staff describe her as dynamic, forward thinking, courageous and determined. Leadership and management are successfully promoting outstanding education and care. This is leading to very favourable outcomes for all children.

Leadership roles and responsibilities have been effectively shared among the staff. Teamwork is exceptional and all staff are committed to providing a high quality education for the children. All leaders make outstanding contributions to the school's performance. School self-evaluation is rigorous and thorough. As a result, the school knows what it does well and uses the findings of evaluations to plan for improvements. Recent priorities such as improving speaking and listening and developing the outdoor learning environment have been highly effective. The school has demonstrated an outstanding capacity to improve.

Teachers and teaching assistants from other schools and trainees benefit from the outstanding practice at Burnwood. The Nursery staff share their expertise and provide training for other practitioners. The school plans to extend this facility. Governors are committed, supportive and have a very good understanding of the school's circumstances and its performance. They are fully involved in the day-to-day life of the school and make very positive contributions; for example, a governor is helping to develop musical opportunities through information and communication technology (ICT).





## Annex A

## 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	2
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	1
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>	1
<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.

## Annex A

**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	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

## **Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection**

9 June 2007

Dear Children

Inspection of Burnwood Nursery School, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 6PB

Thank you so much for welcoming me into your school and showing me all your work. I enjoyed my visit and would like to tell you what I found out. Burnwood is a fantastic nursery school and one you can all be very proud of.

These things are strengths of the school.

- You clearly enjoy school and all the wonderful activities offered.
- The teaching is brilliant which is why you learn so much.
- You are all making excellent progress.
- Your behaviour is really good and you get on very well with others.
- The new outdoor play area is great.
- All the staff know you very well and you receive excellent care and support from them.
- The headteacher is a real star and wants the very best for all of you.
- Your parents are very pleased with the school.

There is one thing that the school might like to work on.

- Your teachers and support assistants are keen to share the fantastic work at Burnwood with staff from other schools.

I enjoyed having lunch with you and thank you so much for the wonderful picture of the orang-utan in the jungle. I wish you all the best for the future.

With kind regards

Derek Watts

Lead Inspector