



Westfield Nursery School

Inspection Report

Unique Reference Number 123951
Local Authority Stoke-On-Trent
Inspection number 292837
Inspection date 23 January 2007
Reporting inspector Joyce Cox

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

Type of school	Nursery	School address	Queensberry Road
School category	Maintained		Longton
Age range of pupils	3-5		Stoke-on-Trent ST3 1QZ
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Telephone number	01782 235405
Number on roll (school)	40	Fax number	01782 235405
Appropriate authority	The governing body	Chair	Tanya Fynney
		Headteacher	Gillian Farnworth
Date of previous school inspection	10 December 2001		

Age group 3-5	Inspection date 23 January 2007	Inspection number 292837
-------------------------	---	------------------------------------

© 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 one Additional Inspector over one day.

Description of the school

The school draws children from a wide range of cultural and economic backgrounds. All children attend full time. Attainment on admission is below the expected levels for children of this age, particularly in their communication skills. Almost a third of the children come from minority ethnic backgrounds and speak English as a second language in addition to their main languages of Punjabi or Urdu. An average number of children have learning difficulties or disabilities. Children start at the Nursery following their third birthday.

As part of the school's continuous commitment to improvement, it has secured many awards for its work, including a Health Promoting School Award, Investors in People Accreditation and School Achievement Awards in 2000 and 2003.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 1

Westfield is an outstanding school where children of all abilities and backgrounds succeed and thrive. At the heart of the school's work is the belief that every child is special and staff successfully live out the school motto: 'Letting each child shine'. One parent, summing up the views of many, writes 'The way that the staff motivate children to enjoy learning is excellent.' Others mention the staff's caring nature and tender touch, which ensure that children make exceptional progress in their personal, social and emotional development, and are well equipped for their future lives.

It is obvious from the moment the children and parents enter the Nursery, where they are warmly met and welcomed every day by the headteacher, that this is a happy, safe and lively place where learning is fun. Children flourish and quickly grow in confidence as the staff skilfully assess their different personalities and skills. Staff encourage children to become confident and happy learners prepared to try out new experiences and activities. As a result, achievement is outstanding and progress in all the areas of learning is exceptional. By the time they leave the school, children are working at levels which are in advance of those expected for their age in creative, personal, social, emotional and physical development. Their communication, language, literacy and mathematical development and their knowledge and understanding of the world development is at about the levels expected. Staff successfully use the excellent and vibrant curriculum to stimulate learning both indoors and outdoors. Teaching is outstanding because of staff's excellent knowledge of how young children learn. Incisive assessment makes sure all children's individual learning needs are identified and met. Adults have excellent relationships with children and inspire confidence and success. Consequently, the children's behaviour and attitudes are exemplary and contribute much to their outstanding achievement.

Leadership and management are outstanding. Led by the highly competent and charismatic headteacher, the staff are always looking for ways to improve the school. They share a deep commitment and passion to provide high quality Nursery education. This is reflected in the drive to raise standards further and skilful ways in which the school has built upon its excellent reputation over the years. Excellent progress has been made since the last inspection, particularly in improving the provision for children from minority ethnic families. There is clear evidence of outstanding capacity to build on the school's strengths. Governors provide excellent support to the school and are increasingly involved in evaluating its work. The one area to address in this otherwise extremely successful school is to work closely with the recently built, adjacent Children's Centre to share expertise and resources. Parents correctly express complete trust and confidence in the staff and the excellent care, guidance and support they provide, endorsing the headteacher's statement that 'No matter what, children come first in this school.'

What the school should do to improve further

- Forge close, effective links with the nearby Children's Centre.

Achievement and standards

Grade: 1

Achievement is outstanding and standards in all areas of learning are above or in line with the expected levels. Boys and girls of all backgrounds and abilities make excellent progress and become competent and confident learners. They are especially successful in their personal, social and emotional development, responding with enthusiasm and interest to all that the Nursery offers. Language skills improve rapidly because there is very focused support and a wealth of opportunities for children to practise speaking and listening and to start beginning to learn to read and write. Children at an early stage of learning English enjoy all that the Nursery offers and make excellent gains in learning new words. This is due to high quality intensive support from all staff and, in particular, from an extremely talented bilingual teaching support assistant who slips naturally between English, Panjabi and Urdu. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities make rapid progress because of sensitive, loving support and exciting practical activities and resources to capture their interest.

Personal development and well-being

Grade: 1

Children's personal development, including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, is outstanding. This is a happy, interesting and exciting Nursery where children quickly become confident enough to work independently and rapidly learn to take turns and share resources. They remain busy throughout sessions, persevering with tasks and responding positively to encouragement and praise, which spurs them on to try even harder. Excellent relationships, friendships and behaviour ensure the Nursery is a great place to be. Because staff successfully make the most of every learning opportunity, children very quickly learn to celebrate the different cultures in the community around them, enjoying Eid parties and other celebrations. Children say they enjoy eating fruit snacks and the excellent healthy school lunches. They are encouraged to take a very active part in the school and local community through discussions, fund raising, singing at the local day care centre and visiting the local mosque and church. The skills children learn, together with the independence they develop, are preparing them extremely well for later life.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade: 1

Staff have an excellent understanding of how young children learn which they skilfully apply to their planning to support individuals. This works exceptionally well for children with learning difficulties and disabilities who are set precise, achievable targets. Skilful teaching in group sessions brings less confident children out of their shells and stimulates much talk, humour and collaboration. Similarly, there is excellent support

for those at an early stage of learning English. For instance, two members of staff skilfully told the story of 'The Enormous Turnip' in English and Panjabi, thereby improving children's understanding and enabling all to participate fully in every session. A particular strength is the way that planning includes the children's ideas and interests and allows for a brilliant balance between adult-led and child-selected activities. Boys' language learning and interests are enriched through the provision of many outdoor activities, such as a garage area and a chance to explore with their teachers what lies under a car's bonnet.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade: 1

The curriculum is varied and rich, and is based on an excellent understanding of how children learn. Staff achieve an impressive balance between following and extending the children's interests and ensuring all areas of learning are covered. Children's different needs are met, contributing greatly to their exceptional progress. Excellent use is made of the environment and exciting and enticing activities, such as dinosaur and polar landscapes, are provided, just waiting to be enjoyed. Displays, particularly of children's art, are of a very high standard and provide a colourful and interesting backdrop. Special days, visits, visitors and projects, such as 'Primary Colours', add richness to the curriculum and broaden children's horizons. Excellent links with external agencies enhance children's learning. There is scope to foster close links with the recently built next-door Children's Centre to share resources and expertise.

Care, guidance and support

Grade: 1

Parents speak highly of every aspect of the school's work and are delighted with the outstanding care, guidance and support provided. One parent writes 'My son has been supported exceedingly well, they noted his shortfalls and helped him to overcome them through talking and trust.' Staff excel at supporting and encouraging all children. They make excellent use of the comprehensive assessment system to guide children on the next steps in their learning. They are vigilant in tracking children's progress and extremely knowledgeable about all aspects of child protection. Risk assessments are thorough and health and safety matters receive immediate attention. All staff have been checked for their suitability to work with children. There are excellent opportunities for parents to be involved in family learning and parents' classes and the family worker provides an invaluable link between home and school.

Leadership and management

Grade: 1

The school has an excellent track record in maintaining a high quality of education and outstanding levels of care. The headteacher has successfully built a high performing team who show great commitment to school improvement. Evaluation is perceptive and self-critical so there is no room for complacency. For example, the school identified

the need to raise standards in mathematical development and successfully incorporated this into its daily work. Consequently, standards rose. The leadership has created a vibrant, happy ethos which is reflected in the imaginative curriculum and stimulating teaching. As a result, there are high levels of achievement by children of all abilities and backgrounds. Governors offer considerable support. They are becoming increasingly adept at assessing the school's work and monitoring its initiatives. Staff are very good at listening and responding to parents views and children's needs are always put first. As one parent wrote, 'The only thing to change about this school is to make it into a primary so children can have this great experience even longer.'

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.

Inspection judgements

Key to judgements: grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory, and grade 4 inadequate	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?	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

How well do learners achieve?	1
The standards ¹ 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

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	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?	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

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?	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

I enjoyed my visit to your Nursery very much. I really enjoyed looking at your work and joining in with some of the exciting things you do. I know your mums and dads think that your Nursery is a very special place and I agree with them.

There are lots of wonderful things about your Nursery.

- You are very good at working hard, helping each other and listening to your teachers.
- The teachers care about you very much and make learning really interesting and fun.
- Your headteacher is very clever at running the school and makes sure you all have a good time and do well.
- Everyone in the Nursery is happy and friendly and works together to make it an exciting place for you.
- Anybody who needs extra help always gets it.
- You love learning new things and are very good at painting, climbing, talking and being kind to each other.
- You love the fruit and the delicious school lunches you get every day.

I have asked the teachers to work with the Children's Centre next door so you and other children can have even better toys and learn even more.

It was really great to see that you are so happy at Nursery and doing so well.