



Glendale Infant School

Inspection Report

Unique Reference Number 125595
Local Authority Warwickshire
Inspection number 293304
Inspection date 23 January 2007
Reporting inspector David Carrington

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

Type of school	Infant	School address	Skye Close
School category	Community		Nuneaton
Age range of pupils	4-7		CV10 7LW
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Telephone number	024 76349672
Number on roll (school)	239	Fax number	024 76343060
Appropriate authority	The governing body	Chair	Peter McKenna
		Headteacher	Stella Saje
Date of previous school inspection	7 May 2002		

Age group 4-7	Inspection date 23 January 2007	Inspection number 293304
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one Additional Inspector.

Description of the school

Glendale is an average-sized infant school. Most of the pupils live close to the school. The entitlement to free school meals is a little below average. Nearly all the pupils are White British, and very few speak English as an additional language. Just over a fifth of the pupils have learning difficulties or disabilities, which is a little above average.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 3

Glendale Infant School gives its pupils a satisfactory education. It is an improving school. There is now a clear focus on raising the achievement of pupils. The headteacher and senior leaders give good direction to the school and successfully ensure pupils' personal development and well-being are good.

The pupils are well behaved and get on well with each other and the staff. They support each other carefully and are proud of everyone's achievements. Pupils enjoy school and are keen to learn. 'Our teachers make learning fun and we like the hard work we have to do' is a typical response from the pupils. They have a good sense of keeping healthy and safe. The personal development of children in Reception is good.

Attendance has been below average for a number of years. The school works effectively to improve attendance and, so far this school year, the attendance rate is above that of the last two years.

Standards are average by the time pupils leave Year 2. This shows that pupils achieve satisfactorily from their just below average starting point in Reception. Standards fell in 2004 but the school has successfully raised them since then. Standards in writing have been lower than in other subjects for the past few years. The school is making some useful changes to the way writing is taught, which are beginning to show through in improved achievement. Children in Reception make good progress in their literacy and mathematical development.

Teaching is satisfactory overall. In a few lessons the pace of work is not brisk enough, which affects the progress made by the pupils because their concentration lapses. Boys and the higher attainers are most affected by the inconsistent pace. The curriculum is satisfactory. The new 'integrated curriculum' is planned to link subjects together more successfully. The programme of activities outside lessons is good. Pupils are given good support and guidance and they are well cared for, although there is inconsistent sharing of targets for achievement with the pupils. The procedures for safeguarding pupils are rigorous.

The leadership and management is satisfactory. There are pressures on the budget. This has meant that the school has been unable to appoint a deputy headteacher for some time and the proposed changes to senior posts have had to be postponed. This has slowed improvements in some key areas such as monitoring and evaluation of the school's work because there are not enough staff to take on these responsibilities. Nonetheless, senior managers and governors have a realistic understanding of the school's performance and the capacity for future improvement is assured.

What the school should do to improve further

- Ensure that the pace of lessons is consistently brisk in order to enable the boys and higher attainers to achieve well.
- Accelerate the improvement of systems to check and evaluate the work of the school and to share targets for learning with the pupils.

Achievement and standards

Grade: 3

Children in Reception are enthusiastic learners. The staff ensure that the children's achievement is at least satisfactory in all six areas of learning. When the children start school, they have below average levels of skill and knowledge in communication, language and literacy and in their personal, social and emotional development. They progress well in these areas so that by the time they join Year 1, three quarters have achieved all their learning goals and the rest are not far short of their targets.

Many pupils make steady progress in Years 1 and 2. The effective support given to pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities ensures they achieve soundly. Boys have not achieved as well as the girls in recent years and, like the higher attainers, lose concentration at times when the pace of lessons flags. This means their progress is inconsistent and so they do not all reach the standards of which they are capable. Girls hold their interest over longer periods and their progress is often good.

Personal development and well-being

Grade: 2

Children in Reception enjoy their work and play in school and they develop good skills of joining in with others and sharing the toys and equipment. Some lack confidence and self-esteem when they start school but, with encouragement, they successfully venture into unfamiliar activities, safe in the assurance that they are under the watchful eye of an adult. Reception children gradually take on more responsibility and independence and are happy to join with older pupils in assembly and other events.

Pupils in Years 1 and 2 have a strong sense of their own community and have instigated a system of playground friends to make sure everyone is able to play happily together. Pupils in Year 2 take turns, two boys and two girls at a time, to act as playground friends and they say they enjoy the responsibility this brings. Many pupils took part in the recent concert at Bedworth Civic Hall and are proud that they performed so well for their parents and others in the large audience.

The pupils develop the skills of working together, sometimes in teams, and in making decisions. In this way, they are prepared well for their future education and life outside school. In general, their sound development of basic skills, including considerable competence in the use of computers, contributes to their readiness for the future.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade: 3

Teaching in Reception is satisfactory. Learning is based on activities that are an appropriate mix of adult-led and independent investigation activities. Writing and numeracy skills are promoted satisfactorily. Children enjoy the practical activities. They

were observed to make several new discoveries when exploring the water tray and its contents. They concentrate well when making collages from an attractive mix of materials.

In Years 1 and 2, teaching is satisfactory. In a few lessons the pace of learning is not brisk enough, which slows the progress of higher attainers and some of the boys. Lesson planning is thorough and the skills and knowledge to be learned are identified clearly. When marking work, teachers do not always show their pupils how well they have achieved or indicate ways in which they can improve their work. Pupils' achievement is assessed regularly and the information from this is used effectively to match work to the different abilities in class. Pupils work productively and purposefully. Teaching assistants give good support to their pupils, especially those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade: 3

The curriculum for children in Reception is satisfactory. The school is in the process of improving the outdoor facilities for Reception children in order to give them better chances to broaden their learning, especially in their physical development and knowledge and understanding of the world. The focus on early literacy and numeracy is good.

The introduction of the 'integrated curriculum' is proving a positive step forward because it is enabling the more successful development of key skills and knowledge in many subjects. There are evident strengths in the curriculum for art and design and information and communication technology, and improvements are being made to the provision to encourage better writing skills. Pupils enjoy the many visits and visitors they encounter and say that they 'like all the different things we do in lessons'. The school provides a good range of out of school clubs, which the pupils thoroughly enjoy. They say they are full of fun activities.

Care, guidance and support

Grade: 2

One of the school's strengths is the ethos of care and welfare where all pupils are expected to do their best. There are reliable systems for child protection. Relevant checks on all adults working with pupils have been undertaken. The pupils report that they feel well looked after. They know who to turn to if they have any concerns. They say that there is very little bullying and that the school deals effectively with any that may occur.

Support and guidance to help pupils achieve well is also good. Individual targets are set for each pupil and these are tracked carefully to identify the progress made towards them. However, these targets are not shared consistently enough with the pupils.

Leadership and management

Grade: 3

Leadership and management is satisfactory. There are some good qualities of leadership and management, not least in the purposeful direction provided by the headteacher and two temporary senior leaders. Leadership of provision in Reception is sound and the coordination of literacy and numeracy are good.

At present, the three key leaders provide most of the ideas and skills to take the school forward. The absence of a deputy headteacher to take responsibility for leading key areas of the school's work means that the headteacher is under much pressure to improve the school further. The school's self-evaluation is satisfactory and key leaders and the governors have an accurate view of the school's work. Other staff are not involved widely enough in this evaluation. The school manages its tight budget soundly.

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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?	3
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being?	2
The quality and standards in the Foundation Stage	3
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	3
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	3
Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes

Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	3
The standards ¹ reached by learners	3
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners	3
How well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress	3

Personal development and well-being

How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the learners?	2
The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	2
The behaviour of learners	2
The attendance of learners	3
How well learners enjoy their education	2
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	2
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution to the community	2
How well learners develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being	2

The quality of provision

How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of the learners' needs?	3
How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners?	3
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.

Leadership and management

How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?	3
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	3
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can	3
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	3
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	3
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

You gave me a very warm welcome when I visited your school recently and I thought you were polite and well behaved. I discovered a lot about your school and want to thank you for helping me do this. It is clear that your school gives you a satisfactory education. The other main things I found were:

- You reach average standards by the end of Year 2.
- Those of you in Reception have fun and make new discoveries every day.
- In Years 1 and 2, you want to do well, enjoy school and work hard.
- You are taught satisfactorily.
- Your teachers and other staff make sure you are safe and well looked after.
- Your headteacher expects you to do your best and she leads the school well.

There are two important things that can be improved:

- Your teachers need to make sure that you can learn well all of the time in lessons.
- Not all of your teachers make enough checks to see that your school is as good as possible, or that you are meeting your targets.

I know that you will enjoy helping your teachers make these improvements. To start, you can make sure that you listen and concentrate well at all times in lessons.