

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404045
F 020 7421 6644
www.ofsted.gov.uk



21 September 2006

Ms Walker
Headteacher
St Cuthbert with Matthias C of E Primary School
Warwick Road
Earls Court
London
SW5 9UE

Dear Ms Walker

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Science

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 20 September 2006 to look at work in science.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions, but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half-term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with staff and pupils, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of lessons.

The overall effectiveness of science was judged to be outstanding.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards in science are outstanding.

- Over the past three years attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 has risen significantly, and at a rate above the rate of improvement nationally.
- Compared with similar schools nationally, pupils are showing progress which places the school in the top two per cent.
- Pupils demonstrate positive attitudes to work and to other pupils and staff. Their social and cultural development is good.

Quality of teaching and learning of Science

The quality of teaching and learning in science is at least good with much that is outstanding.

- Teachers maintain a good pace in lessons, and skilfully use a range of methodologies to engage and motivate pupils.
- Good planning underpins all their work, and they demonstrate sensitivity towards, and good responses to, the needs of individual pupils.
- Teachers are very skilled at managing class activity to ensure high levels of involvement of pupils who have a wide range of educational needs. They also address effectively the needs of a very high proportion of pupils whose first language is not English.
- Teachers use resources effectively including those made available through ICT.

Quality of curriculum

The quality of the curriculum is outstanding.

- There is a very well planned scheme of work that provides a good basis for teachers' planning. This results in a balanced programme for learning that meets the needs of pupils and complies with National Curriculum requirements.
- The curriculum is enriched by a range of experiences for pupils, such as, science club, external visits, residential experiences at the Science Museum, and a whole school science week.

Leadership and management of science

Leadership and management of science are outstanding.

- There is clarity of vision for science and how it should be developed further to raise the attainment of pupils. This is expressed coherently by senior management and the subject leader for science in communications with staff and in documentation.
- The priorities seen in the well set out development plan builds appropriately on current beliefs. There is good emphasis on the continual development of teaching and learning, and the importance of science investigation and creativity as well integrated elements in effective science provision.
- There are clear imperatives to develop greater consistency in assessment practice, and to promote the further the use of assessment data in evaluating teaching and learning.

Inclusion

The provision for inclusion is outstanding.

- The school monitors the progress of individuals carefully, and has recognised some small differences in performance between different groups.
- They are using assessment data well to keep an eye on any trends that develop.
- Very good inclusion practice is seen in the use of language, physical engagement and activity. Teachers demonstrate great respect and care for pupils, and very good responsiveness of teachers enables them to address the needs of individuals.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- further development of the evaluation of teaching and learning in science through classroom observations to inform planning and professional development
- ensuring the consistency of assessment practice, and the use of data gathered to inform planning and teaching.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop science in the school.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Ian Richardson
Her Majesty's Inspector