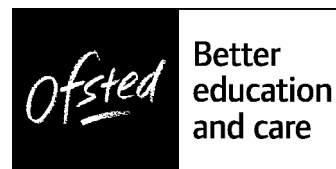


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2 March 2007

Miss A. Williams, Headteacher  
Viewley Hill Primary School  
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Dear Miss Williams,

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Art, craft & design

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 1 March 2007 to look at work in art, craft & design.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of 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, discussions with children, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of children's work and observation of four lessons.

Art, craft & design

The overall effectiveness of the subject was judged to be good.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards are satisfactory overall with good features.

- In the Foundation Stage the majority of children make good progress in their creative development. In Key Stage 1 and 2 this progress continues and children respond well to opportunities to work in a wide range of media by developing a creative response. Standards overall are satisfactory and there are examples of good achievement in sculpture and digital art. However, children are given insufficient opportunities to practice and improve their skills over time; this results in some variations in achievement by the end of Key Stage 2.

- The children have very positive attitudes towards the subject. They respond very well in lessons and take pride in their work. They enjoy art, craft and design and participate enthusiastically in lessons and extra-curricular opportunities.

### Quality of teaching and learning

Teaching and learning are good overall, with many strengths.

- Lessons are well planned, interesting and well resourced. In the best lessons, teachers' subject knowledge is good and techniques are demonstrated effectively. They provide a good stimulus for creativity through music, stories and digital photography. Teaching assistants provide effective support, so that all children are enabled to participate and make progress.
- Although teachers' short term planning is good, there are weaknesses in the long term planning for progression and continuity across the school. There are some examples of useful feedback to children on their progress, through discussion and comments in their sketchbooks. However, assessment practice does not sufficiently help children to improve and refine their work; the tracking of children's progress is not yet secure.

### Quality of curriculum

The art, craft and design curriculum is good overall.

- Children are given opportunities to work in two-dimensions and three-dimensions using a broad range of media, tools and techniques. Boys and girls are engaged and motivated by the well chosen tasks and activities, which are often linked to other subject areas, such as geography and history. World Book Day was used effectively as a starting point for some lessons, such as the sculptures and digital art inspired by 'The Chronicles of Narnia'. However, curriculum depth is constrained by insufficient opportunities to re-visit and build skills, knowledge and understanding progressively. This leads to some inconsistencies in learning and achievement as children move up the school.
- The learning environment is stimulating and provides good opportunities for creative play and imaginative ideas. Children have painted attractive murals in the school hall which illustrate landscapes of many cultures. The curriculum is further enriched by work with visiting artists and very good links with local galleries. The subject contributes well to spiritual, social, moral and cultural development.

### Leadership and management of subject

Leadership and management are good.

- You provide strong leadership for the development of a creative curriculum and have enabled staff to take part in professional development which has impacted well on the provision for art, craft and design. The subject leader is

enthusiastic and supportive to colleagues and helps them to develop their expertise through in-school training.

- Good capacity to lead further improvement is evident. The subject leader has led recent work on assessment, which will help teachers agree upon expected standards, and she has a good understanding of what is now needed to take the subject forward.

#### Inclusion

- The subject makes good provision for all pupils. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities have full access to the curriculum and make good progress. The subject has a positive effect on the enjoyment and achievement of every child and their capacity to make a positive contribution.

#### Subject issue: breadth, depth and creativity of provision and outcomes

- Children are offered a very broad range of media and approaches which are enhanced by the context of other cultures and experience of work with artists and galleries. However, children do not yet have sufficient opportunity to develop and refine their skills, knowledge and understanding in depth. Creativity is clearly valued and children are encouraged to make a personal response. They say they enjoy being able to make choices and use many different materials.

#### Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- ensure that a clear progression of subject skills, knowledge and understanding is evident in curriculum planning and delivery
- define clearly procedures for assessment so that both teachers and children understand how work can be improved and developed.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop art, craft and design at the school.

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

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Earlam  
Additional Inspector