

Carterhatch Infant School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	101983
Local Authority	Enfield
Inspection number	307866
Inspection dates	23–24 June 2008
Reporting inspector	Vanessa Ward

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

Type of school	Infant
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	3–7
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	318
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mrs Christine Holland
Headteacher	Mr Andrew Boyes
Date of previous school inspection	1 March 2004
School address	Carterhatch Lane Enfield EN1 4JY
Telephone number	020 8804 6886
Fax number	020 8373 7323

Age group	3–7
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by three Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

Carterhatch Infant School is larger than average. Pupils enter the school in the September after their third birthday. They come from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds, the largest groups being of Turkish or White British heritage. More pupils than usual speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is above average. This includes pupils with speech and language difficulties. A designated Nurture Group is established for pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The percentage of pupils who qualify for free school meals is well above average. The school hosts a breakfast club for its pupils. At the time of the inspection, the headteacher had been in post for a few weeks.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 2

Carterhatch Infant School is a good school. Parents are very supportive of the school and feel that their children 'make good progress and are happy.' The staff work hard, and successfully, to develop positive relationships with parents, and to involve them in their children's learning. The school cares for its pupils well and uses its good links with other agencies to provide specialist help where needed. Pupils feel safe in school and know that the adults will help them if they have a problem. Their personal development and well-being are good and contribute to both their enjoyment of school and their eagerness to learn. This enthusiasm makes a positive contribution to pupils' progress. They have good understanding of healthy eating and are enthusiastic about participating in sports and exercise.

In the few weeks since the headteacher was appointed, he has carried out a detailed and accurate analysis of the school's strengths and areas for development. This has led to comprehensive action plans for school improvement, which are beginning to be implemented. New staff, who will take up their posts in September 2008, have been appointed to strengthen and develop the effectiveness of the leadership team. Although subject leaders work conscientiously, they do not currently have sufficient influence over, or accountability for, standards and achievement in their subjects. This is an area identified by the headteacher for development. Governors are keen for the school to improve and are very supportive of the headteacher. Their involvement in the strategic development of the school, and in holding it to account for the quality of education it provides, are areas identified for development.

By the end of Year 2, standards are broadly average and pupils' achievement is good. From low starting points, standards in reading, writing, mathematics and science have gradually risen since the previous inspection. Whilst most teaching is good, and has made a significant contribution to rising standards, there are inconsistencies in the quality of teaching. These include variations in the accuracy of the challenge that is given to different groups of pupils and in the teachers' expectations of what the pupils can produce. This means that, in some lessons, pupils make less progress than they should.

Pupils readily take on responsibilities around the school. Pupils on the school council are proud of the opportunities they have to influence school development. The curriculum is satisfactory and has been enriched by a recent focus on personal, social and health education, which has done much to boost pupils' self-esteem. The curriculum is currently being revised to make it more creative and interesting. Pupils speak positively about school trips and clubs and these enrich the curriculum. The school's focus on teaching basic skills and giving pupils meaningful opportunities, such as taking responsibility for organising fund raising, help to prepare them well for future life.

The recent improvements in standards, combined with the planned strengthening of the leadership team and the rigorous monitoring and analysis of the school's strengths and weaknesses, followed by action to bring about improvement, all indicate that the school has good capacity to improve.

Effectiveness of the Foundation Stage

Grade: 3

When children are first admitted to the Nursery, their skills are often well below those generally found in three-year-olds. In addition, a very high proportion of children are at an early stage

of learning English. The school successfully helps the children settle quickly and begin learning. Whilst the satisfactory teaching enables the children to make satisfactory progress, by the end of the Foundation Stage, few children reach the goals expected. There is some good and, occasionally, outstanding teaching, particularly in the Nursery and, in these lessons, children make good progress. However, planning and teaching, including teachers' expectations of what the children can do, are not consistent and cause children's progress to be uneven. There is a good focus on teaching letter sounds and names and this is helping to accelerate learning. Good use is made of the outside areas to enhance the children's learning, but the focus on learning and progress is not always as sharp as it should be. Support staff relate to the children very well and make a significant contribution to their learning. The staff monitor and record children's progress conscientiously. The headteacher has identified that better systems need to be put in place so that provision is consistently good in all classes. Robust plans are in place to promote improvement.

What the school should do to improve further

- Increase the proportion of good and outstanding teaching, so that all pupils are challenged to achieve well.
- Ensure that provision in the Foundation Stage is of consistently good quality in order to promote good progress.
- Increase the skills and accountability of subject leaders regarding their responsibilities for standards and achievement in their subjects.

Achievement and standards

Grade: 2

Assessment information shows that all groups of pupils, including those with speech and language difficulties, make good progress from their low starting points. Pupils in the Nurture Group also make good progress because of the attention that is paid to their individual needs. The school is aware that it needs to continue working to raise standards and to improve the accuracy of its target setting. It is revising the ways in which it monitors pupils' progress and identifies where support is needed, to make the process more rigorous and so accelerate learning.

Personal development and well-being

Grade: 2

Pupils are friendly, lively, confident and inquisitive. Their behaviour is good and they follow the Carterhatch Code very well. They have good awareness of how rules contribute to their safety and security. Pupils say, 'We must be good role models for other children.' All aspects of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are good. Pupils are particularly skilled in reflecting on their feelings. They have a good understanding of each other's cultural backgrounds. This understanding develops well through subjects such as art, music and literature. Attendance has improved considerably since the previous inspection and, although it remains below average, the school is doing all it can to continue this improvement. Pupils have a good understanding of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle, both in terms of healthy eating and exercise. Pupils accept responsibilities readily. They are pleased to help other pupils on the playground and to be involved in making rules.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade: 2

Teaching and learning are good overall, although the quality of both varies widely across the school. Staff usually plan conscientiously, are enthusiastic and make learning fun. In the words of one pupil, 'We have fun while we work. For me the fun thing is when you do things.' Teachers, including the very effective support staff, often use questions to assess pupils' learning, and give clear feedback, both orally and in marking, to identify what the pupils need to do next to improve. In some lessons, expectations are high, the pace of the lesson is fast and teachers make good use of resources, including the interactive whiteboard, to ensure that pupils make good progress. In a Year 2 literacy lesson, in which pupils were writing questions, the teacher made clear what she expected them to achieve and provided high quality resources to support them personally, so that they did very well. However, this is not always the case and, sometimes, the pace of learning is too slow and teachers expect too little of the pupils, with the result that in these lessons some pupils make insufficient progress.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade: 3

The curriculum is broad and balanced and contributes well to pupils' personal development and provides a sound platform for their learning. The school acknowledges that it needs to provide more opportunities for pupils to practise their basic skills across a range of subjects. Planning is good for pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities, including those with behavioural problems. Those learning English as an additional language are given good access to the curriculum. This is underpinned by effective personal, social and health education, through which children learn to be calm, capable and confident. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about what they do in school. The curriculum is enriched by visits, visitors and participation in local community activities, including music and folk dance festivals, gymnastics competitions and a young citizens environmental project. A breakfast club and a range of after school clubs are also very well-attended.

Care, guidance and support

Grade: 2

Procedures to keep pupils safe are well established and effective. Support for pupils with speech and language difficulties and for those in the Nurture Group is good. The school liaises very successfully with outside agencies to support the well-being and development of all its pupils. The large proportion of pupils who enter the school speaking very little English are given good support in order to help them settle quickly. A recent focus on improving behaviour is proving effective and pupils understand what is expected of them. The school is working hard to involve pupils in understanding how well they are doing. Pupils know their targets, and the school is developing their skills in evaluating how well they are doing and in understanding what they need to do next to achieve their targets. Support for pupils when they join the school, and when they prepare to move on to their next school, is good, enabling them to settle quickly and happily.

Leadership and management

Grade: 3

The headteacher has a clear sense of direction for school improvement and understands how to bring this about quickly. He has developed a good sense of teamwork with his deputy and has successfully raised the awareness of staff and governors regarding the priorities for school improvement. He is taking effective steps to bring this about. The process of school self-evaluation is being improved so that it involves all staff and governors and takes account of the views of parents and pupils.

The school has recognised that the responsibility of subject leaders for standards and achievement in their subjects is not well developed. Plans are in place to increase their skills in, and understanding of, their responsibilities as leaders and managers. Governors support the school well and have a satisfactory understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. Their involvement in school self-evaluation, in subsequent planning and in developing their monitoring roles, are all areas rightly identified for development.

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Annex A

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

Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	2
The standards ¹ reached by learners	3
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners	2
How well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress	2

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 extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	2
How well learners enjoy their education	2
The attendance of learners	3
The behaviour of learners	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?	2
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.

Annex A

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	3
How effectively leaders and managers use challenging targets to raise standards	3
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	3
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can	2
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	2
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

03 July 2008

Dear Pupils

Inspection of Carterhatch Infant School, Enfield, EN1 4JY

Thank you for welcoming us and for talking to us about your school. It was very useful to listen to what you had to say about what you enjoy doing.

Your parents and carers think that your school is a good place to learn and we agree with them. Here are some of the things we particularly liked about your school.

- You learn well so that by the time you go to the junior school, you can read, write and do mathematics at the standard expected for children of your age.
- All of the grown-ups look after you well and this helps you to feel safe and happy in school.
- You know which foods are good for you and like doing lots of exercise in school.
- Your teachers give you interesting things to do and this helps you to enjoy learning.
- You behave well and follow the Carterhatch Code very closely.

Your new headteacher has lots of good plans to make your school even better. In order to help with this, we have asked him and the teachers and governors to do three things.

- Make sure that you are always given work that helps you to do really well.
- Make sure that the children in the Nursery and Reception classes are helped to learn as much as they can.
- Ask the teachers who look after particular subjects to check more often how well you are doing in their subjects and decide how things could be improved.

You can help by always doing your best and making sure that you always come to school unless you are poorly.

We hope that you will keep enjoying school.

Yours sincerely

Vanessa Ward

Lead Inspector