

# Kew Woods Primary School

## Inspection report

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	104867
<b>Local Authority</b>	Sefton
<b>Inspection number</b>	308690
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 November 2007
<b>Reporting inspector</b>	Clare Henderson

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

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<b>Type of school</b>	Primary
<b>School category</b>	Community
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	3-11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number on roll</b>	
School	371
<b>Appropriate authority</b>	The governing body
<b>Chair</b>	Mr James Flemming
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Des Stubbs
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	22 September 2003
<b>School address</b>	Ovington Drive Southport Merseyside PR8 6JW
<b>Telephone number</b>	01704 533478
<b>Fax number</b>	01704 537203

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## Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one Additional Inspector.

The inspector evaluated the overall effectiveness of the school and investigated the following issues: standards and achievement; personal development and well-being; and the quality of provision. Evidence was gathered from: the school's self-evaluation; national published assessment data and the school's own assessment records, policies and minutes; observation of the school at work; interviews with senior members of staff and pupils; and the parents' questionnaires. Other aspects of the school's work were not investigated in detail, but the inspector found no evidence to suggest that the school's own assessments, as given in the self-evaluation, were not justified and these have been included where appropriate in the report.

## Description of the school

This school is larger than average in size. A below average proportion of pupils takes up free school meals. The proportion of pupils identified as having learning difficulties and/or disabilities is below average. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. A few pupils are of minority ethnic heritages or at an early stage of learning English. The school has gained a number of awards, including the Healthy Schools Award, The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Quality Mark, Eco School Gold Status, Basic Skills Quality Mark and International School Intermediate Level.

## Key for inspection grades

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

## Overall effectiveness of the school

### Grade: 1

This is a school in which pupils achieve outstandingly well in their academic work and also make tremendous strides in their personal development. The school has gone from strength to strength since the previous inspection, not only in driving up standards but in promoting the school motto, 'every child matters'. In the words of parents, 'Children flourish in this wonderful school and leave as confident, outgoing and mature young people ready for their next steps in learning.' Pupils' achievement in the arts, sports and music is equally impressive. They benefit from an exceptionally wide range of extra-curricular activities, which do much to raise their confidence and self-esteem.

The school is not complacent and all staff and the excellent governing body are involved in a continual and relentless drive to make the school even better. Central to the success of the school are the extremely high expectations of the headteacher and deputy headteacher, shared equally by governors and all those working in the school. Outstanding teamwork means that staff support one another very well and share ideas and expertise for the benefit of pupils. All staff have a strong leadership role and they are encouraged to develop their individual expertise in different subjects to the full. This distributive form of leadership not only encourages excellent teamwork but makes a huge contribution to the high standards achieved by pupils.

Most pupils start school with skills expected for their age. Consistently high quality teaching enables all pupils to make excellent progress. By the time they leave, pupils' achievement is outstanding. Standards reached are consistently above the national average in English, mathematics and science. Through rigorous assessment, teachers identified that a small number of the more able pupils were underachieving in reading and writing in Year 2 and science in Year 6. The 2007 tests confirmed this slight dip at the higher levels. The school acted swiftly and has taken effective steps to remedy this. In particular, they identified where reading, writing and scientific skills could be extended and strengthened the teaching of phonics and science throughout the school, to address this.

Pupils are excellent ambassadors for the school. Their personal development, including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. Attendance is excellent. Behaviour is impeccable and pupils treat their classmates and others with dignity and respect. They are proud to share what they do to promote healthy and safe lifestyles and to develop their enterprise and conservation skills. Pupils speak passionately about the improvements they have brought about, not only in the local community, but internationally through links with a school in Africa. The three school councils representing ecological issues, health and other aspects of school life do much to represent the views of pupils in all years. The actions of the Eco council, for example, resulted in transforming the school grounds from, as pupils say, 'a land derelict and full of rubbish', into a purposeful learning environment. Pupils who are playground leaders or 'peer mediators' ensure that everyone is happy and safe in the playground, helping younger children to benefit to the full from the activities available. Within these roles, pupils gain valuable skills that help them prepare for their future.

The quality of teaching is outstanding and teachers deliver their lessons with the learning styles of each individual in mind. Great emphasis is placed on the use of ICT as reinforcement for new learning and as a tool for pupils' personal research. The curriculum encourages pupils to be imaginative in their work and gives them maximum opportunity to reach the highest standards in all subjects.

Teachers, teaching assistants and all other adults provide excellent support and guidance for all groups of pupils enabling them to achieve well. The words of one parent sums up the views of many, 'Children blossom due to the fantastic support and guidance they receive.' Excellent assessment procedures are used very effectively to guide pupils in improving their work and achieving the best that they can. A particularly good feature is the quality of marking, where targets are set for pupils to know clearly their next steps in learning. Pupils commented on this and said that they found them helpful.

The school underestimates its success and has been overly cautious in judging teaching, and care, guidance and support to be good. Excellent leadership at all levels and consistently high standards and achievement demonstrate that the school has outstanding capacity to improve further and that it provides outstanding value for money.

## **Effectiveness of the Foundation Stage**

### **Grade: 1**

A rich, vibrant and stimulating environment, excellent teamwork between teachers and teaching assistants and excellent links with the parents ensure that children get off to a flying start. Teachers make learning fun instilling a real sense of curiosity and a thirst for knowledge. Children are really motivated to learn and all engage enthusiastically in activities. The school makes particularly good use of the outdoor learning environment to stimulate children's learning and enjoyment in both the Nursery and Reception classes. Children clearly enjoy learning and are eager to talk about what they are doing. All adults are sensitive to the needs of the children and skilled at meeting these. Detailed and rigorous assessment of children ensures that activities are matched very well to the needs of individuals. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are identified early through these procedures. This ensures that they are given additional support and make excellent progress. High quality teaching and excellent shared leadership and management by staff ensures that children make excellent progress to achieve, and for some to surpass, the expected levels by the time they start Year 1.

### **What the school should do to improve further**

- The school has an extremely clear view of how it can continue to develop and there are no additional measures necessary beyond those given in the school improvement plan.

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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?	1
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?	1
The effectiveness of the Foundation Stage	1
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	1

### Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	1
The standards <sup>1</sup> reached by learners	1
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 extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	1
How well learners enjoy their education	1
The attendance of learners	1
The behaviour of learners	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

<sup>1</sup> 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**

<b>How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?</b>	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 leaders and managers use challenging targets to raise standards	1
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	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	1
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**

Inspection of Kew Woods Primary School, Southport, PR8 6JW

Thank you all for the wonderful welcome you gave me when I visited your school recently. I enjoyed talking to you and watching you learn. I would now like to tell you the really excellent things about your school.

Kew Woods is an outstanding school and you are right to be proud of it. Children in Nursery and Reception get an excellent start and have so many opportunities to learn with each other through play. You continue to make exceptionally good progress in all other years and, by the time you leave at the end of Year 6, you reach very high standards in all your subjects. This is because the teaching you receive is outstanding and you also work very hard.

Your behaviour is excellent and you look after each other so well. You enjoy working in groups and you like to help your classmates when they find things difficult. Members of the three school councils work hard to find out what you think and, as a result, have made your school even better. You particularly like the very wide range of extra-curricular events and take a full part in arts, sports and music activities.

Your teachers and teaching assistants take very good care of you and make sure that everyone feels safe and secure. They also give you a lot of advice about how you can improve your work. Your headteacher and all your other teachers know exactly how to make sure that your school continues to improve.

Please continue to work hard and enjoy your studies.