

Scout Road Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	107509
Local Authority	Calderdale
Inspection number	309416
Inspection date	20 November 2007
Reporting inspector	Arthur Markham

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

Type of school	Primary
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	4–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	104
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Rev James Allsion
Headteacher	Mrs Mary Barry
Date of previous school inspection	8 December 2003
School address	Scout Road Mytholmyroyd Hebden Bridge West Yorkshire HX7 5JR
Telephone number	01422 883327
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by an Additional Inspector. The inspector evaluated the overall effectiveness of the school and investigated the following issues: achievement and standards, the quality of teaching and learning, and leadership and management. Evidence was gathered from the analysis of pupils' test results; scrutiny of samples of their work; lesson observations; observations of pupils at break and lunchtime; discussions with pupils, staff and governors; school documentation and 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 its self-evaluation, were not justified, and these have been included where appropriate in this report.

Description of the school

This small sized school serves an area of mainly private housing. The number of pupils claiming free school meals is well below that in most schools, as is the number with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The vast majority of pupils are of White British origin and no pupil has English as an additional language. The school has been awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark, the International Schools Award and has Healthy School and Investor in People status.

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 an outstanding school in which pupils flourish and make excellent progress both in their academic performance and in their personal development. Staff know the pupils very well and give very close attention to meeting the needs of each individual in order that they fulfil their potential. This is greatly appreciated by the parents who rate the school highly. 'Scout Road is an excellent school continually striving to meet the needs of all the pupils and give them new opportunities,' typifies the views of many. Parents are particularly pleased at the high level of care taken of their children, saying they find the staff very approachable and always willing to talk over any concerns they might have.

Pupils' achievement is excellent. Throughout the school pupils make very good progress because of high quality teaching which, as they say, 'Makes learning fun'. The good start they make in the Reception class is built on very well in Years 1 and 2 so that by the end of Year 2, standards are above average in reading, writing and mathematics. Pupils continue to make very good progress in Years 3 to 6 and by the end of Year 6, standards in English, mathematics and science are generally well above average. Although test results fluctuate, as a result of the small number of pupils in year groups, they have been gradually rising at both Year 2 and Year 6 over the last few years. In 2007, there was a dip in pupils' performance at both key stages. At Year 2 this was mainly because fewer pupils than usual reached the higher Level 3 in writing. At Year 6 the impact of an increased number of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities resulted in standards being around average overall, although the proportion of pupils reaching the higher Level 5 was above national averages. The work of pupils currently in the school indicates that standards are again well above average. The close attention given to meeting the needs of pupils with additional learning needs results in them making very good progress. Similarly, the more capable pupils achieve very well because they are given good opportunities to develop their skills and talents.

Lively and stimulating teaching, which is invariably good and very often outstanding, ensures that pupils really enjoy their learning. Lessons are planned carefully to ensure that tasks match the wide range of abilities in the split age classes. Specialist teaching in subjects such as literacy, mathematics and science results in lessons that are challenging. The imaginative use of interactive whiteboards excites pupils and makes learning relevant. As a result, pupils listen attentively and are keen to answer questions. Their behaviour is exemplary and they display excellent attitudes to learning. The high quality relationships evident throughout the school ensure that classrooms are happy, industrious places in which pupils work hard to please their teachers.

The rich curriculum is a significant reason why pupils do so well and enjoy school so much. Whilst close attention is given to the basic skills, the linking of other subjects on a common theme makes learning more interesting for pupils. Music is given a high profile. Links with schools in other countries add a global dimension to their learning, which is well supported by the teaching of French and Spanish. A very good range of visits and visitors to the school enrich learning and pupils say how much they enjoy the many after-school clubs.

Pupils' mature approach to school is a key factor in their excellent achievement. This stems from the close attention to their personal development, which is outstanding. The attention given to developing their self-esteem and confidence ensures that they become increasingly responsible and sensible as they progress through the school. They explore issues and develop

a caring concern for the needs of others in personal, social and health education, and citizenship lessons. They are pleased that their views are gathered through the work of the school council and are keen to talk about of the changes that have taken place as a result. Their awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle is reflected by the school's achievement of the Healthy School Award. The many opportunities they are given to work in pairs and groups develop their inter-personal skills very well. This, together with their excellent basic skills prepares them very well for the next stage in their learning.

The headteacher provides strong leadership and a very clear educational vision to the school. Her concern for the welfare of the individual pupil has generated a close family feel to the school where clearly every child matters. She is well supported by the staff who share this concern and her aim to provide high quality education for all the pupils. Governors play a key role and give excellent support and challenge to the school. The resultant very effective team approach is a major reason for the school's success. Arrangements for self-evaluation are thorough and very effective. Pupils' progress is closely monitored in order to provide support to any seen to be underachieving. The school is constantly striving to improve. Taking all these factors into account, the school's capacity to improve is excellent.

Effectiveness of the Foundation Stage

Grade: 2

Provision in the Foundation Stage (Reception Year) is good. The staff create a warm and welcoming environment so that Reception class children quickly feel safe and secure. Children enter with skills similar to those expected for their age and, as a result of the very effective teaching, quickly develop good learning habits. The classroom is bright and attractive and all the different areas of learning are catered for well. Due weighting is given to teacher led and independent activities. In teacher led activities, the children's attentive faces whilst sat on the carpet show their enjoyment of learning. They move to independent activities enthusiastically and work and play together in a friendly manner. The outside area, however, is not well developed and its use is limited with the result that opportunities to extend children's learning outdoors are not as well developed as they should be. Leadership and management are good. Effective assessment procedures ensure that each child's progress is closely monitored. As a result, children make good progress and by the end of the Reception year, most reach the national expectations for their age and a good number exceed them.

What the school should do to improve further

- Develop the outside area in the Foundation Stage to improve opportunities to extend children's learning outdoors.

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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	2
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	1

Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	1
The standards ¹ 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

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?	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

Annex B**Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection**

Inspection of Scout Road Primary School, Hebden Bridge, HX7 5JR

It was a pleasure to visit your school to find out how well you are learning. Thank you for being so friendly and talking to me. I very much enjoyed my day with you and listening to what you had to say. I agree with what many of you told me that Scout Road Primary is an outstanding school.

I think your school is a very welcoming place and I was very impressed at the way that it is always trying to improve so that you do well. I particularly liked the warm and friendly atmosphere and the way the staff take excellent care of you so that you feel safe and happy. This was very clear to me because many of you told me how much you like your teachers and enjoy school. I was also very impressed by the mature approach you have to your learning and how hard you work for your teachers. This is the main reason that you make such very good progress and reach well above average standards in English, mathematics and science. Your behaviour in lessons and around the school is excellent and I was pleased to see how well the older pupils take care of the younger ones. Your awareness of the importance of a healthy diet and how to keep fit and healthy was clearly evident when I talked to some of you at lunchtime.

Thank you for helping me so much with the inspection of your school. Your headteacher and all the staff work very hard to give you a good education so that you achieve well. I have asked them to develop the Reception class outside area so that children are given more opportunities to learn outside.

I hope that you will continue to work hard in school and help the teachers so that your work gets better and better.