

Trewirgie Junior School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	111842
Local Authority	Cornwall
Inspection number	310699
Inspection date	6 February 2008
Reporting inspector	Paul Sadler

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

Type of school	Junior
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	7–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	355
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Neil Cannicott
Headteacher	David Simons
Date of previous school inspection	1 May 2003
School address	Falmouth Road Redruth TR15 2QN
Telephone number	01209 215238
Fax number	01209 315384

Age group	7–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by an Additional Inspector. He evaluated the overall effectiveness of the school and investigated the following issues: the progress of pupils through the scrutiny of their work and the school's data; the planning of the curriculum to meet pupils' individual needs; and the quality of academic guidance given to pupils. Evidence was gathered by observing lessons, scrutinising documents and pupils' work, and from discussions with staff and pupils. Other aspects of the school's work were not evaluated 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

The school is situated near the town centre. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is well below average, as is the proportion at an early stage of learning English. The school has an area resource base for up to ten pupils with moderate and/or complex learning difficulties. Overall, the proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is about average.

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. Quite rightly, very many parents speak with exceptional warmth and respect for the work of staff and the quality of education their children receive. 'Children thrive in a caring and stimulating environment and develop into independent thinkers', is typical of many similar comments. Pupils enter the school with broadly average attainments. They make outstanding progress in English and science, where standards attained in national tests at the end of Year 6 are well above average, and in other subjects including art, music and physical education. The school is rightly proud of its sporting success, for instance, the tag rugby team are the current national champions. In music and drama, parents describe the Christmas event as 'magical'. Pupils attached to the area resource base make excellent progress, as shown when a pupil with significant language difficulties spoke to the class with confidence and clarity about his enthusiasm for 'Transformers'. Pupils make outstanding progress in developing their use of information and communication technology (ICT), for instance, Year 4 pupils used a program to compare mathematical shapes with speed and accuracy. Pupils' behaviour is excellent. They show care and respect for each other and for adults. They report that there is almost no bullying, saying any which occurs is dealt with effectively. Pupils have an excellent understanding of how to lead safe and healthy lives, for example, the need for a healthy diet and for care when using the Internet, a matter on which the school has provided training for both parents and pupils. Spiritual, moral, social and most aspects of their cultural development are outstanding, although pupils have a limited understanding of the range of faiths and cultures present in British society. Attendance is average, although the school works hard to improve it. Pupils make an excellent contribution to the community, both in school as, for instance, prefects or as members of the school council, and in the town, where they are involved in many community and charity events. Success is achieved through outstanding teaching. Teachers have excellent relationships with their pupils and carefully plan interesting tasks with the needs of their pupils in mind. They use ICT exceptionally well, as when Year 6 pupils were designing a 'virtual tour' of the school. In lessons, teachers' explanations are very clear, so that each pupil understands the task they have been given. Assessment is used very well to plan work, to track each pupil's progress and to set targets. Pupils say they enjoy school very much as teachers are caring and lessons interesting. They are enthusiastic about their targets. Both teachers and pupils review progress on a regular basis, and pupils assess their own and each other's work. The excellent attitudes of pupils in lessons, and their respect for the staff, are particular strengths. Discussion between pupils is encouraged, and the purposeful atmosphere in every classroom helps pupils to express themselves well, developing their independence and confidence. Teaching assistants make an excellent contribution to the progress of all pupils, especially those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The curriculum is planned to ensure the excellent development of pupils' skills through other subjects, as when Year 3 pupils were writing a description of their artwork. There is an exceptional range of additional activities in sport, music and for varied activities such as art and Scrabble. The school has been a leader in a local initiative to support more-able pupils and offers a wide range of activities to those with particular gifts or talents. Pupils receive excellent care and support. All requirements for child protection are met and staff are updated regularly on new requirements. Many parents comment on the very clear framework of expectations set out by the school, and about the very good support they or their children have received as individuals. Taking their example from the excellent lead of the headteacher, the dedicated and experienced staff provide outstanding leadership and management for the school. There is a very good understanding

of the school's many strengths and few weaknesses, and when the latter are identified, effective action is taken. An example of this is the improvement in boys' writing in the recent past. Rigorous monitoring by the very effective subject leaders has also led to improvements, such as in the quality of marking and in the use of targets. The governing body also has an excellent understanding of the school and has taken very effective action, for instance, in developing the school's facilities and in appointing staff. Demanding but achievable targets are set and reached. Staff receive good training that is carefully matched to their own and the school's needs, and the school is itself active in training new teachers from a range of backgrounds. There are excellent links with a wide range of partners such as social agencies and other schools, but most especially with parents. The enthusiasm of parents for the school is at a level rarely encountered. This outstanding school has made very good improvements since its last inspection and is now in an excellent position to improve further.

What the school should do to improve further

- Improve pupils' knowledge and understanding of the range of faiths and cultures present in British society.

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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 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	2
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	2
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**

- 25 February 2008 Dear Pupils Inspection of Trewirgie Junior School, Redruth TR15 2QN I very much enjoyed talking and listening to you and seeing your work when I visited your school recently. I want to thank those of you who took time to talk to me. I was very impressed to hear that your school are the national champions of tag rugby. Well done! Yours is a super school in which you make outstanding progress in your work. Some of the best things about the school are:
- You do very well in the tests in English, mathematics and science at the end of Year 6, and also in other subjects including PE, music and ICT.
- The teaching is excellent because teachers give you very exciting work that builds on what you already know.
- You say correctly that there are lots of exciting things to do, such as in art, school visits and PE.
- You really enjoy coming to school; you told me this is because the staff are caring and friendly, and lessons are interesting.
- The staff look after you very well. You look after each other and your behaviour is excellent. You take responsibility, for instance, in the school council and as prefects and contribute a lot to the people of Redruth.
- You know a lot about keeping healthy and safe. You eat sensibly, take exercise and know about using the Internet safely.
- You are very confident and talk to adults in a mature and sensible way.
- Your parents rightly believe that the school is excellent and that you are getting a superb education. Some families have returned to Redruth from far away so that their children can come to Trewirgie Junior School! The school is led in an excellent way. The headteacher, governors and staff understand how to make the school even better and are very good at doing so. I have asked them to make sure that you are taught more about the different backgrounds of the people who live in Britain. Thank you once again for your help, and good luck in the future. Paul Sadler Lead inspector

25 February 2008



Dear Pupils

Inspection of Trewirgie Junior School, Redruth TR15 2QN

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- You know a lot about keeping healthy and safe. You eat sensibly, take exercise and know about using the Internet safely.
- You are very confident and talk to adults in a mature and sensible way.
- Your parents rightly believe that the school is excellent and that you are getting a superb education. Some families have returned to Redruth from far away so that their children can come to Trewirgie Junior School!

The school is led in an excellent way. The headteacher, governors and staff understand how to make the school even better and are very good at doing so. I have asked them to make sure that you are taught more about the different backgrounds of the people who live in Britain.

Thank you once again for your help, and good luck in the future.

Paul Sadler
Lead inspector