

# Elmsett Primary School

## Inspection report

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	124695
<b>Local Authority</b>	Suffolk
<b>Inspection number</b>	315024
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 June 2008
<b>Reporting inspector</b>	John Williams HMI

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>	Voluntary controlled
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	4–11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number on roll</b>	
School	76
<b>Appropriate authority</b>	The governing body
<b>Chair</b>	Mrs J Bray
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mrs M Shackleton
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	5 July 2004
<b>School address</b>	The Street Elmsett IP7 6PA
<b>Telephone number</b>	01473 658303
<b>Fax number</b>	01473 658303

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<b>Age group</b>	4-11
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## Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors.

The inspector evaluated the overall effectiveness of the school and investigated the following issues: pupils' academic progress; the organisation, planning, teaching and assessment of mixed age classes; the accuracy of the school's self-evaluation. Evidence was gathered from a range of documentation, especially planning and monitoring documents, observation of lessons, discussions with staff and pupils, and from parents' written comments. There was no detailed investigation of other aspects of the school's work, 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

Elmsett Church of England Primary is a very small village school that serves the local community and surrounding villages. The proportion of pupils who are eligible for free school meals is below average, but the proportion that have special educational need is around average. Pupils come from average social circumstances and from homes where English is the main language spoken. There are no pupils learning English as an additional language. The school has won many awards including the Healthy Schools Award, a School Achievement Award and an ECO Award.

## Key for inspection grades

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

## Overall effectiveness of the school

### Grade: 1

Elmsett Primary school is an outstanding school. Children's attainment on entry is mostly average but, by the time they leave school at the end of Year 6, standards have normally risen to above or well above average in English, mathematics and science. For many pupils this represents excellent progress. Those who have learning difficulties or disabilities often make outstanding progress and the gifted and talented are provided with many opportunities to extend their achievement. In most other subjects, achievement is also very good; it is outstanding in art due mainly to some effective specialist teaching. Pupils' skills in information and communication technology (ICT) are sound but their achievement across a range of ICT experiences is not as well developed because the curriculum is too narrow and skills-focused.

The school rightly judges the overall quality of its teaching to be good. The Foundation Stage gets pupils off to a good start by encouraging children to be thinking, independent learners. Across the rest of the school, teaching and learning are good because teachers know each child's strengths and weaknesses very well. This means they can plan the curriculum carefully to meet their individual needs. Teachers are experienced at planning for mixed age and mixed ability classes and do so carefully because each class shares a number of teachers. This works satisfactorily but the school is aware that in the current year the numbers of teachers used was too great; this has been reduced for the coming year. The use of specialist teachers of some subjects, such as art and physical education, is very effective. The many teaching assistants and higher level teaching assistants also make a significant contribution to learning. The curriculum is good and caters for the needs of all within a strong sense of individual need. A wide range of extra curricular activities, languages, visits and visitors enhances it.

Pupils' behaviour is outstanding and their personal development is excellent. No child has been excluded for many years. Their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development is exceptional and underpinned by a strong focus on support from and for the community, both within and outside the school. Pupils enjoy school very much and attendance is excellent; they feel they have many opportunities to contribute to life in the school. Partnership with parents and a wide range of other organisations is extremely effective in promoting pupils' development. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. As one put it, 'I doubt if I could find a better school for my child'.

The school maintains outstanding levels of care. Pupils understand what makes healthy living through diet and exercise and receive good guidance on how to stay safe and look after themselves. They are beginning to understand the levels at which they are working and are clear about targets for the next stage of learning because their academic progress is monitored carefully.

The leadership and management of the school are outstanding. The governing body provides good support and monitors the school's performance appropriately. The new headteacher provides excellent leadership. The school's self-evaluation is accurate and identifies the key priorities for development, which are recorded in a well structured school development plan. There has been a good rate of improvement since the last inspection and the school currently demonstrates good capacity to improve further.

## **Effectiveness of the Foundation Stage**

### **Grade: 2**

The Foundation Stage has been managed well though a period of staff change in recent years. Nearly all pupils in the main school have attended the playgroup and transition is very smooth. Partnership with the playgroup is very effective. In Reception, children therefore settle well and quickly into routines. Teaching and learning are good and there is a good emphasis on developing skills across a range of competencies. The curriculum is sound with some stimulating activities but, though the outside area is used effectively, it is small and lacks cover, so is limited in its ability to provide pupils with enhanced curriculum activities. Plans to provide cover are in place.

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

- Improve the ICT curriculum and develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of ICT

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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	2

### Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	1
The standards <sup>1</sup> reached by learners	2
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	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?	2
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	2
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	2
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	2
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**

27 June 2008

Dear pupils

Inspection of Elmsett Primary School, Elmsett, IP7 6PA

Thank you for making me so welcome when I visited your school. I enjoyed meeting and talking with you, including the groups of Year 4 and Year 6 pupils who represented you very well.

Elmsett Primary School is an excellent school. You make outstanding progress because the staff know you well and can plan work that meets your needs best. Everyone takes really good care of you and so you develop exceptionally well as you get older. I like the way you listen to the teachers, work and play together; your behaviour is excellent. Well done! You work well with each other, the teachers and teaching assistants. You seem to enjoy coming to school and get pleasure from much of what you are doing. I thought the hats that the Years 5 and 6 pupils made during the afternoon were stunning and I know many of you agreed with me!

Mrs Shackleton and the Governors provide outstanding leadership and management for the school. Much of the teaching in the school is good because teachers understand how to teach mixed age classes.

I have asked the school to look at ways of helping you become better at ICT by providing you with a bigger range of experiences.

I hope you will continue to work hard, enjoy it, and do well at Elmsett Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

John Williams Her Majesty's Inspector