

# Bacton Community Middle School

## Inspection report

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	124816
<b>Local Authority</b>	Suffolk
<b>Inspection number</b>	315071
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 June 2008
<b>Reporting inspector</b>	Anthony Knight 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>	Middle deemed secondary
<b>School category</b>	Community
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	9–13
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number on roll</b>	
School	438
<b>Appropriate authority</b>	The governing body
<b>Chair</b>	Mrs Margaret Rose
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mr Paul Calver
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	14 March 2005
<b>School address</b>	Wyverstone Road Bacton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4LH
<b>Telephone number</b>	01449781389
<b>Fax number</b>	01449 781852

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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: care, guidance and support, which the school considers a particular strength; confirming the school's judgements for achievement and standards. Other aspects of the school's work were not investigated in detail, but the inspector found no evidence 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

Bacton Community School is larger than most other middle schools and serves a large rural catchment area. Learners come from a wide spectrum of social and economic backgrounds. There is some rural deprivation and the percentage of high social class households is broadly in line with the national average. Relatively few pupils are eligible for free school meals. There are very few pupils from minority ethnic groups and all pupils have English as their first language. The percentage of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is significantly below the national average, as is the percentage of pupils with statements of special educational need.

## Key for inspection grades

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

## Overall effectiveness of the school

### Grade: 2

Bacton Community Middle School is a good school where pupils thrive because of outstanding care, guidance and support. The great majority of parents express overwhelming praise for the school, giving numerous examples of how it has not only helped their children but has also changed the quality of their lives. Many parents highlighted how their children have flourished at the school. Pupils' personal development and well-being are excellent. They feel safe and appreciate the support they are given, including the opportunity to discuss any problems they may have with the specialist non-teaching member of staff. As a result, attendance is good and the number of sessions missed through exclusion has dropped impressively from 144 sessions in 2005 to 11 in the last year. Also remarkable was that no pupil was excluded on more than one occasion.

Pupils greatly enjoy learning and make good progress overall. Pupils enter the school with standards generally below what is expected. By the end of Key Stage 2 they are broadly in line with expectations and by the time they leave they are working above expectations. This good academic progress and the excellent personal development prepare pupils well for life beyond the school.

Progress in English is rapid and pupils reach high standards through outstanding teaching. While teaching is generally at least good, progress is not as strong in all other subjects and the school has been working hard to raise standards following a significant fall in attainment in 2005. Appropriate attention is being given to further improving progress in mathematics and, in particular, to raising standards in science. Excellent systems have been developed to provide detailed information on pupils' progress and establish challenging targets. There is also good provision for the use of information and communication technology by pupils. However, while there has been significant improvement within some subject departments, there has been insufficient opportunity for staff to benefit from expertise developed in other subjects. In particular, the school recognises the need to ensure the clarity of learning objectives and stimulating challenge seen in the best lessons are shared and developed across the school.

Pupils' awareness of healthy living choices is excellent with most pupils involved in extra-curricular sporting activities in addition to the two hours of physical education they receive each week. They also contribute significantly to the school community through being a 'Bacton Buddy' and through the good School Council. They provide excellent support for each other. The school has good plans to involve pupils further in the development of teaching and refinement of the good curriculum.

Skilful and sensitive leadership has made the school not only a happy place for pupils but also for staff. Staff are given good support and the opportunity to develop. Excellent links with other schools enable staff to work in different settings and ensure smooth transition for pupils. The governing body provides good support to the school and to the senior leadership team, who are managing well the additional challenge of the two-day secondment of the headteacher to the Local Authority.

All judgements made by the school are honest and accurate, although modest about some of its achievements. The school acknowledges that some statutory requirements have yet to be met fully but appropriate actions have already been taken to ensure these will be completely met by at least the end of this term.

The school has made satisfactory progress since the last inspection. However, progress since the fall in standards in 2005 has been good. Good progress has been made in the areas of development identified in the last inspection. There is strong financial management and good capacity for further improvement.

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

- Find ways to enable excellent practice to be shared more widely across subjects as well as within subjects.
- Re-examine all learning objectives to ensure they define the specific focus for the work so that pupils can see easily what they are expected to achieve by the end of the lesson.
- Ensure increasing challenge in the depth and quality of response expected from pupils, in addition to the matching of tasks to pupils' different learning needs.



## 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?	1
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	2

### Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	2
The standards <sup>1</sup> reached by learners	2
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?	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	2
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	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>	2
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	2
How effectively leaders and managers use challenging targets to raise standards	2
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	2
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

11 June 2008

Dear Pupils

Inspection of Bacton Community Middle School, Bacton, IP14 4LH

I enjoyed coming to your school and would like to thank you for your warm welcome and for talking to me so openly. It was good to see how happy you are in the school. It is clear you enjoy lessons and appreciate the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities. You, and your parents, are right in saying this is a good school. I also agree with many of your parents that praise the school for the excellent way it looks after you.

I saw some excellent teaching and know your headteacher and subject leaders are working hard to make sure that all teaching increasingly matches the best. They will be finding even more ways for your teachers to share excellent work and learn from each other. You can help by telling your good school council what teaching you enjoy most and what things help you learn best. In some lessons I was very impressed by the way the teacher quickly helped you understand what you were going to learn in that lesson. You also enjoyed the challenge of being told how you could improve your work and do even better. Your school wants you to do your best and you can help by telling your teacher if you are not clear how you could provide a better answer or piece of work.

I was very impressed by the way you support each other, and this enables you to feel safe and make better progress. You have helped the school improve and have a key role in helping to make it even better.

It is clear that your school knows what to do to improve even further and understands your needs.

I wish you all the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Knight Her Majesty's Inspector