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Mr M Mison  
Headteacher  
Perry Hall Junior and Infant School  
Colman Avenue  
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WV11 3BT

Dear Mr Mison

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Design and technology

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during our visit on 8 October 2007 to look at work in design and technology.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions, but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half-term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with staff and pupils scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of lessons.

Design and technology

Provision for design and technology is good with some very good features.

Achievement and standards

- Standards are above average and pupils achieve well in design and technology throughout the school.
- By the end of Year 6, pupils' attainment is high across the full breadth of the subject. They consider purpose in their designing, draw and discuss their ideas clearly and use criteria well to evaluate the products.
- The quality of making is good and pupils use tools, materials and equipment safely and with good levels of craft skills.

- Older pupils understand that their designing and making in school are more than just enjoyable activities and that they are likely to be useful in their future lives and work.
- ICT is well used for research and control, though it is underdeveloped in computer-aided designing.
- The pupils' very good progress is helped by the carefully structured curriculum and the increasingly challenging work set in the projects.

### Quality of teaching and learning

Teaching and learning are good overall. Some outstanding teaching was observed.

- Carefully planned and structured units of work and lessons cover the subject comprehensively.
- Very good use is made of the interactive whiteboard.
- Teachers use a wide range of interesting teaching methods and they have excellent relationships with their pupils.
- Teachers have good subject knowledge and they are well supported by the very effective subject coordinator.
- Some classroom assistants have been well trained to help pupils design and make their products.
- Pupils are taught to evaluate systematically and to use criteria effectively.
- Some of the design work is not practical enough for some younger and less able.
- Assessment is well developed in the Foundation Stage but is inconsistently carried out in Key Stages 1 and 2.

### Quality of curriculum

The curriculum for design and technology is good throughout the school.

- The school makes very thorough and effective use of the QCA scheme of work and teaching materials produced by other authoritative organisations.
- The emphasis in all projects is quite rightly on the designing and making of functional products.
- Design and technology has a secure place in the curriculum and the block timetabling ensures that it is fully covered in all year groups.
- Pupils benefit from the well structured project booklets which guide them well through their work.
- Some effective links are made between D&T and other subjects but some opportunities to do so are missed.

## Quality of leadership and management

The quality of leadership and management is very good.

- This well run school provides a productive basis for the teaching of design and technology.
- The coordinator has a very good oversight of the subject and has coordinated the development of a strong curriculum throughout the school.
- Design and technology is presented to the pupils as a very worthwhile, challenging and interesting subject.
- Classroom assistants are well trained and deployed.
- Self evaluation is accurate.

## Inclusion

Design and technology is taught in a very inclusive way. Pupils with learning difficulties make good progress.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- strengthening the links between D&T and other subjects where appropriate
- in order to improve the creativity of pupils, especially the less able, develop practical ways of helping them to design
- increasing the consistency of assessment in Key Stages 1 and 2.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop design and technology in the school.

A copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Peter Toft HMI  
Ofsted Subject Adviser for D&T