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Mr Tom Gittins
Headteacher
Hartburn Primary School
Adelaide Grove
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Dear Mr Gittins

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Design and Technology

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 4 December 2007 to look at work in Design and Technology (D&T).

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 learners, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of lessons.

The overall effectiveness of D&T was judged to be good with outstanding features.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards are good with outstanding features.

- Pupils make good progress from an average starting point. They get off to flying start in the reception and foundation stage, learning how to successfully design and model their ideas. They achieve well at Key Stage 1 and 2 and, by the time they leave school, standards are above average.
- D&T capability is well developed using a good range of materials including textiles, food, systems, and control components.

- An outstanding feature is the pupils' ability to creatively design products using recycled materials. Another outstanding feature is the recording and display of past and current high quality work.

Quality of teaching and learning

The quality of teaching and learning in D&T is good with outstanding features.

- D&T subject knowledge is good at all key stages. Pupils make good progress largely because projects are well devised to develop D&T capability, for example moving toys. Generic teaching skills and routine high quality lesson planning are outstanding features.
- The school knows more finely differentiated work is central to further improving achievement and standards in D&T. Pupils are routinely given good individual feedback on how to improve their work during D&T lessons. The school is exploring ways of providing individual feedback beyond the 'traffic light' system whilst keeping the right balance in the workload of staff teaching D&T.

Quality of the curriculum

The quality of the curriculum is good with an outstanding feature.

- Units of work developed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) are providing good support, particularly at Key Stage 2, for example, when pupils design and make slippers. Key design skills such as analysing and researching are consistently covered from reception to Year 6. In the lower years, subject knowledge is covered well through integrated project work. Good medium term plans on a rolling programme make sure D&T provision meets the needs and interests of learners.
- Opportunities for older pupils to develop D&T capability using more sophisticated tools and computer aided machines at a local secondary school is an outstanding feature.

Leadership and management of D&T

Leadership and management of D&T are good with an outstanding feature.

- The way the subject is led and managed is consistently good at all levels. The school's management capacity to ensure D&T thrives is an outstanding feature.
- Self evaluation of D&T is accurate and judgements are underpinned by extensive records of work in all year groups.

Inclusion

All groups of pupils are equally involved in D&T work, including those with learning difficulties.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- monitoring individual progress in D&T more closely
- more finely differentiated work to help pupils achieve even more highly.

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

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your Local Authority and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Paul Hancock
Her Majesty's Inspector