Ofsted
raising standards
improving lives

20 November 2007

Mr K Bryant
Headteacher
Christ Church CE Primary School
Baker Street
Weston-Super-Mare
BS23 3AF

Dear Mr Bryant

**Ofsted survey inspection programme of primary schools 2007/8
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 13 November 2007 to look at work in ICT.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of ICT, the visit had a particular focus on the impact of ICT on whole-school improvement.

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 you, your co-ordinator, Year 2 and Year 6 pupils, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of a Year 2 and a Year 4 lesson in the computer suite.

The overall effectiveness of ICT was judged to be good.

Achievement and standards

Standards in ICT are in line with expectations by Year 6. Achievement in ICT is good. The contribution to pupils' personal development and well-being is good.

- Pupils enter school below expectations in all areas of learning. They make good progress in ICT and by Year 6 standards are in line with expectations and pupils' achievement is good.
- Pupils confidently use the mouse and keyboard to log on and off and to access their work.
- Throughout the school pupils enjoy using ICT. They work well together and are proud of their work. They support each other well when things go wrong or when they are not sure of what to do next.

- ICT has a good impact on raising standards in other subjects, for example English and mathematics.

Quality of teaching and learning

The quality of teaching and learning is good.

- Pupils are well managed and consequently work well together.
- Teachers' subject knowledge is good.
- The school recognises that, although subject knowledge is good, the confidence of some teachers in Years 3-6 is not as high as it should be. They are being given good support, especially by a well informed teaching assistant.
- Good, and at times outstanding, reference is made in lessons to the learning objectives and the success criteria. Pupils are encouraged to refer to the success criteria during the lesson to assess their own understanding and their next steps to learning.
- Teaching assistants give good, and at times outstanding, support for pupils to ensure work is well matched to their needs.
- "I can" statements are used to support pupils' knowledge of how well they are doing. However, they are not fully embedded and younger pupils have difficulty understanding the statements.

Quality of the curriculum

The quality of the ICT curriculum is satisfactory.

- The programmes of study are being covered well through cross curricular activities.
- There is a consistent approach to planning to ensure the profile of ICT is raised and makes an impact on all subjects.
- The ICT curriculum has moved away from a national scheme but the new scheme has still to be fully embedded and evaluated, especially to support the Primary Strategy for literacy and numeracy.
- Provision for pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is good. They make good progress in ICT.
- Gifted and talented pupils are given good support through a cluster initiative for ICT and so also make good progress.
- Good use is made of ICT to deliver French.

Leadership and management of the subject

Leadership and management of ICT are good.

- You have a clear vision for the subject which has been shared with all staff and which you take forward in your role of subject coordinator.
- You monitor the quality of teaching and learning in ICT and this has resulted in improvements in teaching and learning.
- Parents and pupils are informed of the policy for safe use of the internet. However, they are not regularly reminded and updated about its content.
- Governors support the subject well.

- 'Computers for families' is an outstanding initiative, which gives parents, carers and pupils who do not have access to a computer a refurbished one for home use. Parents and carers are also invited to attend a series of workshops in the suite. This leads to a nationally recognised qualification.

Subject issue - the impact of ICT on whole-school improvement

The impact of ICT on whole school improvement is good.

- The use of ICT to raise standards in other subjects is good. Good examples were seen of ICT being used to raise standards and achievement in a range of subjects, especially English, Mathematics and science.
- ICT is being used well to deliver French and to support those teachers whose modern foreign language knowledge needs to be developed.
- Good use is being made of the North Somerset review to evaluate the overall effectiveness of ICT.

Inclusion

- Good use is made of ICT to motivate all groups of pupils.
- The computer suite is having a good impact on the quality of teaching and learning.
- Good use is made of ICT to support pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Support for gifted and talented pupils in ICT is good.
- The 'Computers for families' initiative ensures that all pupils have access to a home computer.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- continue to develop the confidence of those teachers who are insecure when using and teaching ICT
- evaluate the impact of the new curriculum to ensure that it is meeting the needs of all pupils and continues to support a rise in standards
- monitor and evaluate the "I can" statements to ensure that they are understood by all pupils and that all have a clear understanding of their next steps to learning
- ensure that parents, carers and pupils are kept up-to-date about the policy for Internet use.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop ICT 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

Anthony Green
Additional Inspector