

## Millbrook Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number 134852

**Local Authority** Telford and Wrekin

**Inspection number** 341541

Inspection dates6-7 October 2009Reporting inspectorRashida Sharif HMI

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of school Primary
School category Community
Age range of pupils 3–11
Gender of pupils Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll 310

Appropriate authorityThe governing bodyChairMrs Carol HughesHeadteacherMrs Laura Remington

Date of previous school inspection5 July 2007School addressGranger DriveLeegomery

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#### **Introduction**

This inspection was carried out by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors and three additional inspectors. The inspectors visited 26 lessons, and held meetings with the Chair of the Governing Body, staff, and groups of pupils. They observed the school's work, looked at a range of school documentation and undertook analysis of questionnaires by parents, pupils and teachers.

The inspection team reviewed many aspects of the school's work. It looked in detail at the following:

- provision, standards and achievement in English
- whether teachers have high enough expectations in lessons and whether there are sufficient opportunities given to pupils to contribute to and engage in independent learning
- how effective the middle leaders are in monitoring their areas of responsibilities, evaluating teaching and tracking pupil progress
- whether assessment procedures are sufficiently detailed to inform planning to meet the needs of individual pupils
- how effective the governors are in supporting and holding the school to account.

#### Information about the school

Millbrook is a much larger than average primary school. It serves an area where there is significant social deprivation. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is well above the national average. The proportions of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds and those for whom English is an additional language are well above the ones found nationally. The school has a high level of mobility across the age range. The school achieved its Active Sports Mark award in 2008 for the third time.

### **Inspection judgements**

#### Overall effectiveness: how good is the school?

3

#### The school's capacity for sustained improvement

3

#### **Main findings**

Millbrook is a satisfactory school. Different groups of pupils, supported by the views of parents, say that they feel safe at school. Inspectors agree that pupils generally know how to stay safe. There are well-organised arrangements for the care of all pupils, particularly those whose circumstances make them potentially vulnerable. Pupils speak highly of the support they receive from adults, especially from the learning mentors. Staff know the pupils' pastoral needs very well and they provide satisfactory pastoral support where needed.

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage settle quickly and make satisfactory progress in their learning and development from a very low base. This satisfactory progress continues into Key Stages 1 and 2. Pupils' attainment by the end of both key stages, although beginning to improve, remains below the national average, particularly in mathematics. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities make satisfactory progress because of the targeted support that they receive. Pupils for whom English is an additional language, particularly those who are recent arrivals to the country, also make satisfactory progress with similar levels of support. Across the school, pupils of middle ability do not always make as much progress as they could because of a lack of sufficient challenge in some lessons. There are insufficient opportunities for pupils to extend their learning through independent work.

There are satisfactory positive relationships between the school and parents. The school consults with parents through regular questionnaires, and in person through their regular attendance at formal and informal meetings.

The headteacher, with the support of her senior leadership team, has set a clear agenda for school improvement. Pupils' work in reading and writing shows a marked improvement since the last inspection and current indications are that this is set to continue. There has been notable improvement in teaching because of the emphasis placed on ensuring that teachers make better use of assessment to plan lessons so that pupil's individual needs are fully met. This improvement, however, is not yet consistent across the school. Self-evaluation is broadly accurate but planning lacks sharpness about what the school needs to do to make significant progress. The headteacher's accurate judgments from monitoring of lessons and scrutiny of pupils' work demonstrate that the school has satisfactory capacity to improve.

The school recognises that more staff and governors must be involved in evaluating the work of the school. Similarly, it recognises that the coordinators are not sufficiently effective in leading and managing their areas of responsibilities, especially in raising levels of attainment in mathematics and science.

#### What does the school need to do to improve further?

- Raise the levels of attainment throughout Key Stages 1 and 2, particularly in mathematics and science, by ensuring that coordinators are more effective in leading and managing their subjects and holding staff fully to account.
- Improve teaching and learning by:
  - sharing existing good practice across the school
  - making more consistent use of assessment to plan lessons that meet pupils' individual needs
  - ensuring pupils have sufficient opportunities to develop their understanding through sustained periods of independent work.
- Involve more staff and governors in checking and evaluating the work of the school.
- About 40% of the schools whose overall effectiveness is judged satisfactory may receive a monitoring visit by an Ofsted inspector before their next section 5 inspection.

#### **Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils**

3

Children enter the Early Years Foundation Stage with levels of skills that are well below those expected for their age. The 2009 unvalidated national test results by the end of Year 2 and Year 6 indicate standards, although remaining below those expected nationally, are beginning to rise, particularly in writing. Standards in reading and mathematics remain below expected levels by the end of Key Stages 1 and 2. The senior leadership team has responded well to gathering robust assessment data for individuals and groups of pupils. These data show that pupils in the current Years 5 and 6 are on track to performing better than those in 2009.

Currently, standards in English, mathematics and science are below average. Standards are beginning to rise, particularly in English, where the school has placed the most focus. Achievement is satisfactory overall and pupils' progress in Key Stage 2 is improving from better teaching. Progress is not so rapid in Years 1 and 2 where teaching is rarely above satisfactory.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities make better progress when they are supported in small groups. Similarly, those who are at the early stages of learning English as an additional language make good progress from the helpful support they receive. Others from a range of minority ethnic backgrounds make no more than satisfactory progress because of the lack of focused teaching to meet their specific language needs.

Pupils who are trained as mentors play an active role in the playground to ensure that no pupil is without a friend during playtime. Pupils feel safe in the school and they are free from any major bullying and harassment. A small minority of pupils raised a concern about the behaviour of others but said that this was managed well by teachers. Pupils said that they know who to go to if they need help or guidance. As one pupil said,

'I like to come to school because all the teachers are helpful and kind.'

Pupils have a good understanding of healthy eating and how to keep fit. Many take up extra-curricular activities, particularly during lunch time. Years 3 to 5 enjoy swimming at the local high school. Pupils readily take on responsibilities and are eager to be involved in decision-making when given the opportunity. Pupils newly elected onto the school council speak with excitement of the things they would like to do - given the chance. Pupils and parents actively raise funds for the school and various charities. Pupils were particularly proud of their project of developing the nature and bird garden. They have a satisfactory understanding of moral and ethical issues and are sensitive to the needs of those less fortunate then themselves, shown by their efforts to raise money for Children in Need and the Leukaemia Foundation.

Attendance and punctuality are satisfactory and the school works hard with parents, carers and other appropriate agencies to improve attendance. It recognises there is still much work to do with those parents who take their children abroad for extended leave.

#### These are the grades for pupils' outcomes

Pupils' achievement and the extent to which they enjoy their learning	3	
Taking into account:  Pupils' attainment <sup>1</sup>	4	
The quality of pupils' learning and their progress	3	
The quality of learning for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their progress	3	
The extent to which pupils feel safe		
Pupils' behaviour		
The extent to which pupils adopt healthy lifestyles		
The extent to which pupils contribute to the school and wider community		
The extent to which pupils develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being		
Taking into account: Pupils' attendance <sup>1</sup>	3	
The extent of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development		

#### How effective is the provision?

The grades for attainment and attendance are: 1 is high; 2 is above average; 3 is broadly average; and 4 is low.

Overall, the quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Teaching has improved since the previous inspection, particularly in Key Stage 2. The inspection focused on the school's provision for English, where pupils have made better progress than in mathematics and science. Teaching is more effective in English, where assessment is used effectively to plan activities that best meet the needs of individuals and groups of pupils. This accounts for the slowly improving standards and progress of the pupils. Where teaching is most effective, the teachers ensure that there is a calm and purposeful learning environment in which pupils respond to high expectations of behaviour and attitudes to learning. In the best lessons, teachers engage pupils fully through a range of activities that challenge, capture interest and promote independent learning. Occasionally, lessons are too limiting, for instance when the tasks set allow the writing of only one sentence when the pupils are capable of much more, or when pupils finish their work quickly and do not have follow-up tasks to do. In most lessons, pupils have positive attitudes to their learning, enjoy the activities and try to do their best, despite some unnecessarily over-lengthy introductions by teachers. Consequently, pupils do not always have sufficient time to work in groups or independently.

The curriculum is suitably matched to the needs of pupils and provides a satisfactory preparation for the next stage of their education. It is enriched by extra-curricular activities and a good partnership with a neighbouring school. The school believes that the curriculum is not creative enough for the changing population, and is currently redesigning it so that it better meets the range of pupils' needs.

Teachers use the expertise of classroom assistants well in most classes. They make a valuable contribution to the learning, particularly for the pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. They establish good relationships with the pupils and have a good understanding of their needs. At times they are not used effectively enough, particularly in whole-class teaching sessions.

The school provides a caring and welcoming learning environment for all pupils. Relationships between adults and pupils are satisfactory overall, and pupils speak of the helpful support and care they receive from learning mentors. Staff genuinely care about their pupils. While there are good arrangements for transition between some years these are not consistent across the school.

#### These are the grades for the quality of provision

The quality of teaching	3
Taking into account:  The use of assessment to support learning	3
The extent to which the curriculum meets pupils' needs, including, where relevant, through partnerships	
The effectiveness of care, guidance and support	3

### How effective are leadership and management?

The headteacher has an accurate understanding of the school's main strengths and areas for further development. She works well with her two assistant headteachers. Together they have developed good systems for tracking pupils' progress. However, this data is not used effectively or consistently by all staff to inform their teaching so that the needs of individual pupils are not always fully met.

Governors regularly visit the school to offer their support and keep abreast of what is happening. Governors are fully committed to the school. They are particularly effective in managing the school's budget. While there are no major shortcomings in the management or use of resources, limitations are well understood and appropriate plans are in place to be considered by leaders and governors.

Parents feel listened to and their views taken into account. The school makes sound efforts to engage with parents at all levels. For example, it set up a nurture group through the learning mentors to support both parents and their children particularly those in vulnerable situations.

The school responds well to community cohesion within, and immediately around the school, especially through the links with the local high school and through charitable fund raising. Awareness of communities outside Leegomery is less well developed. While links further a field are satisfactory, they are not strongly embedded in the curriculum nor are they evaluated for their impact on the wider community. The school promotes equalities well by tracking the gap in performance of all groups of pupils. For example, it closely tracks the progress of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and users of English as an additional language. There have been minor reported incidents of racial harassment and bullying, which the school responds to with a sense of urgency. All safeguarding regulations and duties are met and arrangements and policies for safeguarding are in line with government requirements and systematically reviewed.

#### These are the grades for leadership and management

The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement			
Taking into account:  The leadership and management of teaching and learning	3		
The effectiveness of the governing body in challenging and supporting the school so that weaknesses are tackled decisively and statutory responsibilities met	3		
The effectiveness of the school's engagement with parents and carers	3		
The effectiveness of partnerships in promoting learning and well-being	3		
The effectiveness with which the school promotes equality of opportunity and tackles discrimination			
The effectiveness of safeguarding procedures	3		
The effectiveness with which the school promotes community cohesion	3		

Inspection grades: 1 is outstanding, 2 is good, 3 is satisfactory, and 4 is inadequate  Please turn to the glossary for a description of the grades and inspection terms			
The effectiveness with which the school deploys resources to achieve value for money	3		

#### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

Children enter the Early Years Foundation Stage with skills that are well below the nationally expected levels, especially in literacy. They make satisfactory progress because teachers and other adults encourage and challenge them at all levels, but their skills and understanding remain below average on entry to Year 1. Children settle quickly and readily engage in a good range of activities from a stimulating environment, both inside and outdoors. Activities are carefully planned to include a wide range of stimuli, including examples of written language and numbers. Adults use the recent assessment of children's needs to support learning across all areas of the curriculum. Children relate well to each other and to the adults that work with them. Careful management of behaviour results in inquisitive children who are eager to share their achievements. As one child said to the inspector 'We're making a sand house; you will come back and see it when we finish?' They play well, both independently and under the direction of adults, sustaining good levels of concentration. They are beginning to develop good independent skills. For example, they move from one activity to another with ease, readily use a range of resources and tidy away afterwards.

The Foundation Stage managers are well supported by an effective team and they manage the rooms and outdoor facilities well. Safeguarding procedures are robust and the team has a good understanding of the educational and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

#### These are the grades for the Early Years Foundation Stage

Overall effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
Taking into account: Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The quality of provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	3

#### Views of parents and carers

Parents' views expressed about the school were very positive. Several parents wrote positive comments praising the specific aspects of the school's work, including care and support offered to them and their children. All respondents stated that their children were happy at school, enjoyed attending, and that healthy lifestyles were promoted very well. Parents and carers are particularly appreciative of the extra clubs, including the early morning breakfast club. A few questionnaires raised concerns, but these were related to individual matters rather than whole-school issues. The HMI discussed these

with the headteacher.

#### Responses from parents and carers to Ofsted's questionnaire

Ofsted invited all the registered parents and carers of pupils registered at Millbrook Primary School to complete a questionnaire about their views of the school.

In the questionnaire, parents and carers were asked to record how strongly they agreed with 13 statements about the school. The inspection team received 27completed questionnaires by the end of the on-site inspection. In total, there are 310 pupils registered at the school.

Statements	Strongly Agree		rs Agree		Disagree		Strongly disagree	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
My child enjoys school	18	67	9	33	0	0	0	0
The school keeps my child safe	13	48	13	48	1	4	0	0
The school informs me about my child's progress	9	33	12	44	5	19	1	4
My child is making enough progress at this school	9	33	15	56	3	11	0	0
The teaching is good at this school	13	48	12	44	0	0	0	0
The school helps me to support my child's learning	8	3	15	56	4	15	0	0
The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	9	33	18	67	0	0	0	0
The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future (for example changing year group, changing school, and for children who are finishing school, entering further or higher education, or entering employment)	10	37	12	44	2	7	1	4
The school meets my child's particular needs	7	26	16	59	2	7	0	0
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	6	22	15	56	3	11	0	0
The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	7	26	14	52	4	15	0	0
The school is led and managed effectively	9	33	13	48	2	7	0	0
Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school	9	47	9	47	1	5	0	0

The table above summarises the responses that parents and carers made to each statement. The percentages indicate the proportion of parents and carers giving that response out of the total number of completed questionnaires. Where one or more parents and carers chose not to answer a particular question, the percentages will not add up to 100%.

### **Glossary**

#### What inspection judgements mean

Grade	Judgement	Description	
Grade 1	Outstanding	These features are highly effective. An oustanding school provides exceptionally well for its pupils' needs.	
Grade 2	Good	These are very positive features of a school. A school that is good is serving its pupils well.	
Grade 3	Satisfactory	These features are of reasonable quality. A satisfactory school is providing adequately for its pupils.	
Grade 4	Inadequate	These features are not of an acceptable standard. An inadequate school needs to make significant improvement in order to meet the needs of its pupils. Ofsted inspectors will make further visits until it improves.	

# Overall effectiveness of schools inspected between September 2007 and July 2008

	Overall effectiveness judgement (percentage of schools)			
Type of school	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
Nursery schools	39	58	3	0
Primary schools	13	50	33	4
Secondary schools	17	40	34	9
Sixth forms	18	43	37	2
Special schools	26	54	18	2
Pupil referral units	7	55	30	7
All schools	15	49	32	5

New school inspection arrangements were introduced on 1 September 2009. This means that inspectors now make some additional judgements that were not made previously.

The data in the table above were reported in The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2007/08.

Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100. Secondary school figures include those that have sixth forms, and sixth form figures include only the data specifically for sixth form inspection judgements.

### **Common terminology used by inspectors**

Achievement:	the progress and success of a pupil in their learning, development or training.
Attainment:	the standard of the pupils' work shown by test and examination results and in lessons.
Capacity to improve:	the proven ability of the school to continue improving. Inspectors base this judgement on what the school has accomplished so far and on the quality of its systems to maintain improvement.
Leadership and management:	the contribution of all the staff with responsibilities, not just the headteacher, to identifying priorities, directing and motivating staff and running the school.
Learning:	how well pupils acquire knowledge, develop their understanding, learn and practise skills and are developing their competence as learners.
Overall effectiveness:	inspectors form a judgement on a school's overall effectiveness based on the findings from their inspection of the school. The following judgements, in particular, influence what the overall effectiveness judgement will be.
	<ul> <li>The school's capacity for sustained improvement.</li> <li>Outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils.</li> <li>The quality of teaching.</li> <li>The extent to which the curriculum meets pupil's needs, including where relevant, through partnerships.</li> <li>The effectiveness of care, guidance and support.</li> </ul>
Progress:	the rate at which pupils are learning in lessons and over longer periods of time. It is often measured by comparing the pupils' attainment at the end of a key stage with their attainment when they started.

This letter is provided for the school, parents and carers to share with their children. It describes Ofsted's main findings from the inspection of their school.



8 October 2009

**Dear Pupils** 

Inspection of Millbrook Primary school, Leegomery, Telford, TF1 6UJ

Thank you for making us feel so welcome and for being so open and friendly when we visited your school recently. I particularly want to thank those pupils who you have recently elected to be on the school council, for giving up their lunch time to meet with us. They certainly did you proud. I enjoyed walking around your nature garden but unfortunately did not see all the birds you spoke about. You and your parents have done an excellent job.

Millbrook Primary school is a satisfactory school. You generally behave well in and around the school. Many of you work hard in lessons and do well particularly in English. However, many of you could learn even more with the help of your teachers. I have asked your headteacher and the other leaders to make sure that you improve further not only in English but also in all the subjects and particularly in mathematics and science. You too can help by making sure that you are punctual and always attend school.

Your teachers have been working hard to change the way they teach, but teaching varies too much in quality. We have asked the good teachers to share their practice so that all teaching becomes good. This will help to meet your individual needs and also help you to become more independent and take greater responsibility for your learning. We have also asked the governors to check and make sure that the school continues to improve.

I think you get on really well with each other and many of you are learning new skills by being on the school council and as mentors. I was very impressed with the way you sit on the bench so those pupils who have no-one to play with can ask you to join them.

I wish you all the very best for the future. I am sure that you will help your teachers to make your school even better.

Yours faithfully

Rashida Sharif

Her Majesty's Inspector

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