

Aviation House  
125 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404040  
F 020 7421 6855  
[enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)



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Mr K Mee  
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
Rough Hay Road  
Darlaston  
Wednesbury  
West Midlands  
WS10 8HN

Dear Mr Mee

Ofsted survey inspection programme – information and communication technology (ICT)

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 2 November 2009 to look at work in ICT.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the subject, the visit had a particular focus on the use of ICT to support learning across the school.

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 included: interviews with you and your ICT coordinator; observations of a Year 6 lesson in the suite; observation of a Year 1 lesson, partly in the suite and partly in the classroom; scrutiny of relevant documentation; and analysis of pupils' work.

The overall effectiveness of ICT was judged to be good.

Achievement in ICT

Achievement in ICT is good.

- Standards are below expectations when pupils enter the Early Years Foundation Stage. Pupils make good progress and enter Year 1 in line with national expectations. This good progress is built upon from Year 1 to Year 6 and by the end of Year 6 standards are above average. Achievement is good.

- In lessons, pupils are very eager to do well and support each other to overcome difficulties and new challenges.
- Pupils have a good understanding of the need to work safely and appropriately when using the internet and social networking sites. Older pupils, especially, are transferring this awareness to their use of ICT at home.

#### Quality of teaching of ICT

The quality of teaching of ICT is good.

- Teaching of ICT is good, which results in pupils making good progress.
- The subject knowledge of teachers and teaching assistants is good. They use questions effectively to develop pupils' understanding of the task or the skills being learnt.
- Planning is thorough and results in different groups of pupils, including gifted and talented and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, making equally good progress.
- Well-planned lessons and good teaching results in pupils being very motivated. Consequently, attitudes and behaviour are outstanding.
- The success criteria for each lesson are shared with pupils so that they know what they need to do to achieve the learning objectives.
- Regular and systematic assessments, to inform planning, are made against coverage of the curriculum and the skills pupils demonstrate.
- By Year 6, pupils have a good awareness of the success criteria of a lesson and what they need to do to achieve within a lesson. However, pupils are not fully involved in setting their own next steps for learning in ICT.

#### Quality of the curriculum for ICT

The quality of the curriculum in ICT is good.

- The programme of study for ICT is taught and planned well. All aspects of the National Curriculum are covered. The ICT curriculum is broad and balanced.
- An ICT club and the popular after school 'Robotics Club', run by parents, give pupils the opportunity to use control technology in an independent and creative way. Year 6 pupils are also especially proud of the newsletters they produce for the school using ICT.

#### Effectiveness of leadership and management of ICT

The effectiveness of leadership and management of ICT is good.

- The leadership and management of ICT have made a good impact on the development of the subject and on other areas of the curriculum.

- The development of ICT is fully supported by you and your governors. You ensure that you obtain good value for money.
- The school's development plan includes ICT and has clear and measurable success criteria for the subject.
- The development of the virtual learning environment (VLE), to support pupils' learning at home as well as at school, is in its infancy. However, you recognise this as your main priority for ICT for this year.

The use of ICT across the curriculum

The use of ICT across the curriculum is good.

- ICT is having a good impact on raising standards in other subjects. Good examples were observed of ICT being used to support English, mathematics, geography, art, history and religious education.
- The development of the 'creative curriculum' has brought together ICT and other subjects in a way that makes learning relevant and very enjoyable for pupils.
- Pupils clearly recognise that the links between ICT and other areas of the curriculum are raising their achievement in a range of subjects. For example, Year 6 pupils say that they feel they have learnt much more about the Ancient Greeks in history because of their internet research and their ICT presentations. Year 2 pupils talked about ICT helping them to use more 'powerful' words in their literacy.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- involving pupils further in the self-assessment of their work, so that they are taking more ownership of what they have to do next to improve
- developing the VLE to enable teachers, pupils and parents to access work and information from home to support pupils' work in school.

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