

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



25 May 2010

Ms J Plummer
Headteacher
New Park Community Primary School
Skipton Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 3HF

Dear Ms Plummer

Ofsted 2010-11 subject survey inspection programme: design and technology (D&T)

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils, during my visit on 13 May 2010 to look at work in 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.

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

The overall effectiveness of D&T is satisfactory.

Achievement in D&T

Pupils' achievement in D&T is satisfactory.

- Pupils develop a broad range of construction skills in the Early Years Foundation Stage. This provides a good start to pupils' development of D&T capability. By the end of Key Stages 1 and 2, pupils achieve in line with expectations for their age.
- Pupils enjoy D&T and this is demonstrated well in their good behaviour and positive attitudes in lessons. Year 6 pupils gain a sense of accomplishment in developing practical skills and progressively being able to use them unaided. They are acquiring a range of technical terms such as axles, pneumatics and cams and use them accurately when discussing their work.

Quality of teaching of D&T

The quality of teaching in D&T is satisfactory.

- Teachers' good management of lessons and adequate subject knowledge are used appropriately. Teachers' and teaching assistants' questioning is used to good effect in the Reception classes to promote pupils' thinking and reasoning. Teachers use resources well, for example, to support pupils' investigations of different kinds of packaging. As a result, pupils in Years 4 to 6 are developing awareness of functionality when designing products. In some lessons observed, tasks were not planned securely to challenge all pupils or to tackle barriers to their learning. As a result, pupils were inactive for long periods.
- Assessment of pupils' D&T capability is at a very early stage of development. Teachers have yet to get to grips with identifying pupils' progress from their starting points. Pupils are not clear about how well they are doing in D&T or what they need to do to improve their performance.

Quality of the curriculum in D&T

The quality of the curriculum in D&T is satisfactory.

- The curriculum meets requirements. D&T provides good opportunities to support pupils' literacy and numeracy development in all classes. Teachers' confidence in planning and developing these aspects is strong and in contrast with planning their own progressively challenging D&T projects.
- Cross-curricular projects provide opportunities to develop pupils' practical skills and help to promote their awareness of sustainability.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in D&T

Leadership and management in D&T are satisfactory.

- Leaders provide a good range of resources and time for D&T, and ensure adequate coverage of the curriculum. However, the schools' vision of how D&T could contribute to pupils' learning is yet to fully evolve. Self-evaluation is accurate. Systems to support teachers' planning have recently been introduced, although further training is required to develop teachers' understanding and confidence in planning for progression. Health and safety risks are identified and assessments are in place: teachers focus securely upon this in lessons and pupils apply them very well.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- developing a system for identifying pupils' progress from their starting points
- developing teachers' confidence in planning the curriculum to ensure all pupils are challenged

- providing training and support to develop teachers' awareness of progression in the subject and the vision for D&T.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop D&T in the school.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on the Ofsted website under the URN for your school. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Gina White
Her Majesty's Inspector