

Bromley Heath Infant School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	109029
Local Authority	South Gloucestershire
Inspection number	309855
Inspection dates	15–16 October 2007
Reporting inspector	Arnalena Bee

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

Type of school	Infant
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	4–7
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	180
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Vacant Position
Headteacher	Chris Chrystal
Date of previous school inspection	28 October 2002
School address	Quakers Road Downend Fishponds Bristol BS16 6NJ
Telephone number	01454 866777
Fax number	01454 866777

Age group	4–7
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

Children join the school with expected levels of attainment. Most children are from White British backgrounds. The proportion of children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities is well below average. No children are learning to speak English.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 2

Bromley Heath is a good school. The strong focus on children's personal development ensures that they gain confidence and develop respect for each other and for the adults who help them learn. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good overall. However, children's understanding of the diversity of cultures in modern Britain is limited. Children thoroughly enjoy playing on the Timber Trail and talk knowledgeably about the importance of exercise and the need to keep fit. Whilst eating their lunch, children showed a good awareness of why it is important to eat healthily. They talk sensibly and confidently about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. Children say they feel safe in school and talk knowledgeably about dangers that they may come across. This was evident in the comment that 'Electricity is so dangerous. You must not touch plugs with wet hands or you will be electrocuted.' The curriculum is good and provision to develop children's personal development is particularly effective. The curriculum provided for the children in the Foundation Stage is effective. Activities are well planned to suit the needs of these young children. By the time children leave school at the end of Year 2, they are well prepared for their next school both personally and academically.

Standards have been above average at the end of Year 2 for the last few years. In relation to their starting points, children achieve well. This is because teaching is good and classes are well managed. The academic guidance that children receive is good. Children's progress is tracked carefully and effective targets help children to improve, particularly in writing. In addition, they receive lots of supportive comments both orally and written in their books. However, marking does not consistently inform children what they need to do to improve or how to achieve their personal targets. The care and personal support that children receive is good. All children know that they are well cared for and say that if they have a problem an adult will help them. Parents and carers are particularly positive about this aspect of the school's work.

The school is well led by the headteacher and her team. The headteacher has a very clear vision of the strengths of the school and what is needed to improve it further. She has implemented effective strategies to ensure that teaching is of a consistently good quality. Subject leaders are effectively focused on raising achievement and standards. As a result, higher attaining pupils have done much better in writing and mathematics this year than they did previously. This improvement indicates that the school's capacity to get even better is good.

Effectiveness of the Foundation Stage

Grade: 2

The children in the Reception classes receive good teaching and support. As a result, they achieve well. Planning is good. The children are given good opportunities to plan activities themselves as well as to learn effectively through directed tasks both in the classrooms and in the outdoor area. Personal and social skills are well promoted in everything the children do. By the time children start in Year 1, they exceed the levels expected. The children behave well and enjoy themselves so much that they cannot wait to get started each morning. Parents are very pleased with how quickly their children settle into school. This is because induction procedures are very good.

What the school should do to improve further

- Ensure that teachers' marking enables all children to be absolutely sure about what they need to do to improve and achieve their targets.

- Improve children's understanding of the diversity of cultures in our society.

Achievement and standards

Grade: 2

Children's achievement is good and standards in reading, writing and mathematics are above average by the time they leave school in Year 2. This is because teaching is generally good throughout the school. The few children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities make similar progress to that of their classmates. Progress of all children is regularly checked and the small number of children who are not on course to reach their targets are given additional support to get them back on track. In 2006, the school identified that higher attaining children did not do as well in writing and mathematics as they did in reading. This has been effectively addressed. Consequently, 2007 national assessments show that the proportion of children who reached Level 3 in writing and mathematics was considerably higher than that in 2006.

Personal development and well-being

Grade: 2

Children enjoy their lessons and work hard. Their enthusiasm was summed up by one child who said, 'Learning is fun, there are exciting things to do.' Attendance is above average, reflecting children's positive attitudes to school. Children are very sociable and helpful and polite to visitors. Behaviour is good. Children are keen and eager to contribute to their school community. They enthusiastically take on jobs of responsibility in school. The school council is very impressive and its members take their jobs very seriously. Recently they have sent leaflets out to parents promoting the importance of healthy packed lunches. School council members were actively involved in the recent appointment of the deputy headteacher. Despite raising money for local and world charities, children's contribution to the local community is less well developed.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade: 2

Teaching and learning are good throughout the school and as a result, children learn well. All teachers quickly develop very good relationships with the children in their classes. Lessons are well planned with activities that suit the children's needs. However, teaching assistants do not always contribute effectively to the children's learning, particularly during the first part of lessons. An improvement since the previous inspection is the way information and communication technology (ICT) is used to support learning. Children now have good opportunities to use computers, develop not only their ICT skills, but also to reinforce and develop their knowledge in other subjects. All teachers confidently use the interactive whiteboards to demonstrate key teaching points in a range of subjects. This makes learning more interesting.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade: 2

National strategies and planning guidelines are used well to ensure that learning is built on year on year, enabling children to achieve well in reading, writing and mathematics. The provision for ICT and the focus on developing speaking skills have both improved since the previous inspection. All children have the opportunity to learn French, which in itself promotes speaking skills further. Activities to enrich the curriculum through clubs, visits out and visitors invited

into school are satisfactory but there are few opportunities to develop children's cultural awareness. The small number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are supported well, ensuring their good progress.

Care, guidance and support

Grade: 2

Children are well cared for in the safe and supportive environment. High priority is given to health and safety arrangements in and around school. Good arrangements are in place to support children to transfer to their next school easily and happily. Good procedures to track how children are doing academically are used well to make sure that they achieve their predicted targets. However, the quality of marking is inconsistent. When teachers mark children's work they do not consistently identify what children need to do to improve their work and reach their targets.

Leadership and management

Grade: 2

The strong leadership of the headteacher drives the work of the school. Her high expectations ensure that all children achieve their best and are happy and safe in school. Subject leaders have become increasingly involved in monitoring their own subjects. This has helped to raise standards through ensuring that more children attain higher levels in writing and mathematics. In addition, improvements to the curriculum have increased children's enjoyment of learning. Issues from the previous inspection have been addressed effectively. The quality of the school's self-evaluation is good and clearly identifies areas for improvement. Tracking systems to monitor individual children's progress and raise their achievement have been developed well. Intervention programmes have been introduced to make sure that all children achieve their best. The governors are relatively new and are developing an understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. Many are currently involved in training to enable them to support and challenge the work of the school more effectively. Most parents are very positive about the school. A typical comment was 'This is a good school with caring and helpful staff.'

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Inspection judgements

Key to judgements: grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory, and grade 4 inadequate	School Overall
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Overall effectiveness

How effective, efficient and inclusive is the provision of education, integrated care and any extended services in meeting the needs of learners?	2
Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being?	2
The effectiveness of the Foundation Stage	2
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	2

Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	2
The standards ¹ reached by learners	2
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners	2
How well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress	2

Personal development and well-being

How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the learners?	2
The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	2
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	2
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	2
How well learners enjoy their education	2
The attendance of learners	2
The behaviour of learners	2
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution to the community	2
How well learners develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being	2

The quality of provision

How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of the learners' needs?	2
How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners?	2
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	2

¹ Grade 1 - Exceptionally and consistently high; Grade 2 - Generally above average with none significantly below average; Grade 3 - Broadly average to below average; Grade 4 - Exceptionally low.

Annex A

Leadership and management

How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?	2
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	2
How effectively leaders and managers use challenging targets to raise standards	2
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	2
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can	2
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	2
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	3
Do procedures for safeguarding learners meet current government requirements?	Yes
Does this school require special measures?	No
Does this school require a notice to improve?	No

Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

17 October 2007

Dear Pupils

Bromley Heath Infant School, Downend, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 6NJ

Thank you for making us so welcome when we came to visit your school a few weeks ago. It was nice to see you working so hard in lessons and getting on so well with each other. We think you behave well in lessons, in the playground, in the dining hall and during assembly. You go to a good school.

We are writing to let you know what we liked best about your school:

- We think, and your parents agree, that you are well cared for during your time in school.
- You are taught well and make good progress as you learn.
- The activities that are planned for you are good.
- By the end of Year 2, your skills in literacy and numeracy are good.
- The headteacher and her team lead and manage the school well.
- You have learnt lots about the importance of eating healthily and taking regular exercise.
- You talk sensibly about what you have to do to keep yourselves safe.

We have asked the school to do two things to make it even better:

- Check that when teachers mark your work they make sure that you know what you have to do to improve and reach your targets.
- Help you to learn more about the different religions and beliefs that are found in our world.

Keep working hard, smiling and having fun as you learn.

Best wishes

Nina Bee Lead inspector

Annex B

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Nina Bee
Lead inspector