

Brookfield Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100011
Local Authority	Camden
Inspection number	323210
Inspection dates	17-18 June 2009
Reporting inspector	Clive Lewis

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 on roll	
School (total)	424
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Dr Sue Dickie
Headteacher	Mr Mark Stubbings
Date of previous school inspection	10 July 2006
School address	Chester Road London N19 5DH
Telephone number	020 7272 9627
Fax number	020 7561 0056

Age group	3-11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by three Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

This is a popular, larger than average urban primary school with a diverse school population. Over half of pupils come from minority ethnic groups, and a quarter of the pupils speak English as an additional language, which is significantly higher than the national average. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is average. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is much higher than average. The headteacher took up the post in January. A breakfast club is run on the school site and is managed by the governing body. Brookfield After School Club run by Camden Play Services on the school site was the subject of a separate inspection, and the report will be made available on the Ofsted website.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 2

Brookfield is a good and improving school. It has a number of outstanding features. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. One parent, typical of many, wrote, 'Brookfield is a very inclusive, welcoming school where children learn well in a happy environment.' Leadership and management are good. The headteacher provides a clear sense of purpose and direction which is clearly linked to school improvement. He has made good progress in his short time in the post in tackling weaknesses in pupils' writing and mathematics skills. Staff want the best for each child and, through working closely with families, they strive to meet this goal. Self-evaluation is good, and demonstrates a good understanding of the issues faced in raising standards further. Subject leaders for English, mathematics, science and information and communication technology have a good understanding of their areas of responsibility, although foundation subject leaders are still at an early stage of gaining this expertise. The school is well supported by its knowledgeable and active governing body.

Children enter the school with skills that are below those typically found, but they get off to a good start and make good progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage. This good progress continues in Years 1 to 6. Progress is very good in English due to the school's very good provision for encouraging pupils' enthusiasm for reading, so that, by the end of Year 6, standards are above those found nationally. While not as strong, progress in mathematics and science is good, and Year 6 standards are average. Teaching is good overall, although marking, while encouraging, does not always provide pupils with enough guidance about how they could improve their work. The curriculum ensures that pupils enjoy a wide range of exciting activities and experiences through visits, residential stays and visitors to the school. These activities, in turn, give pupils lots to talk, think and write about. The school is currently reviewing its curriculum in order to make more links between subjects and make lessons more interesting and exciting for pupils.

Pupils' personal development and well-being are outstanding. Pupils clearly enjoy learning, behave very well, and speak with great pride about the school. They have a very good awareness of how to stay healthy, remain safe and take responsibility for themselves and others. Their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. As a result of rigorous systems, attendance levels are steadily improving and the great majority of pupils now attend school regularly. The pastoral care of pupils is outstanding. Staff care for pupils very well. There is a very strong ethos of inclusion and equality of opportunity. Systems for assessing and tracking pupils' progress are rigorous, although the school is aware that data collection and analysis in the Early Years Foundation Stage needs to be more accurate. The school has made good improvements since the last inspection. Leaders have a clear understanding of how well it is doing and what needs to be improved further. The school has a good capacity to continue to improve.

Effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage

Grade: 2

Many children start school with personal development and communication skills that are below those typically found. Adults plan a varied, exciting and stimulating curriculum. In the Nursery this includes very good 'free flow' use of the outdoor and indoor learning environment. In Reception, although children have opportunities to work and play outside, these occasions are limited due to a lack of space and accessibility which limits opportunities for independent play. Children in both settings experience an appropriate balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Relationships are extremely positive. The children thoroughly enjoy coming to school and are happy and ready to learn. One parent said, 'My son loves going into Nursery and misses it when the school is closed.' Staff care effectively for children's physical, social and emotional needs - for example, by encouraging them to work in cooperation with others, as when sharing resources in the role-play 'garden centre' or helping each other put on aprons in the wet play area.

Leadership of the Early Years Foundation Stage is good. Teachers and key workers have a good knowledge of the children in their care and observe their progress in a variety of ways, including the use of photographs and focused observations. Most children reach the goals set for them by the end of Reception, so that standards are broadly average

by the start of Year 1. Staff recognise, however, that they do not currently have sufficiently accurate assessment information regarding children's attainment at key points, such as on entry to Reception.

What the school should do to improve further

- Improve achievement and standards in mathematics and science to match the standards achieved in English.
- Develop expertise in the criteria for Early Years Foundation Stage assessment and tracking of children's progress.

Achievement and standards

Grade: 2

Throughout the school, pupils of all abilities achieve well. Pupils consistently make good progress, particularly in their English skills, as they move through the school. As a result, by the end of Year 6, standards in the latest national tests were well above average in English, while they were broadly average in mathematics and science. This progress reflects teachers' high expectations and the good use of systems to track pupils' progress, particularly in Years 1 to 6. Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, including those with moderate learning difficulties or physical disabilities, make good progress because of the individual attention they receive. Pupils with English as an additional language and those from minority ethnic groups also achieve well. The school recognises that standards in mathematics and science could be improved further, and has successfully put in place strategies and initiatives that are beginning to remedy the situation.

Personal development and well-being

Grade: 1

Pupils are extremely reflective about being part of the school community. They show their great concern for others by, for example, helping younger pupils and those who are not playing with other children. The great majority have a very clear understanding of what is right, and play and work together in exemplary fashion. As one school council member said, 'Everyone is different, but we all get along.' Pupils have a good understanding of cultural differences through the school's links with schools in Brazil and France. The school's work to gain a Healthy School Award ensures that pupils have an excellent understanding of the how to live a healthy lifestyle and the need to keep safe. Pupils really enjoy coming to school. They say that they particularly like the interesting lessons, playground activities and additional opportunities provided by the school. Pupils make an excellent contribution to the community. The school council is very active. Pupils feel consulted and proud of their input on playground equipment, school meals and raising funds for a variety of charities. Their excellent personal skills and the good standards achieved will serve them well in their future education.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade: 2

Teaching meets the needs of the full range of learners well. Strengths in teaching include thorough planning for pupils at different levels of ability, good additional guidance given to pupils who need this by teachers and teaching assistants, and the good pace and variety in the majority of lessons. As a result, more-able pupils make good progress due to the challenging work provided. Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and those with English as an additional language, also make good progress. Teachers' lesson management skills are good, with the result that pupils behave

well and are keen to learn. Learning objectives are used well, and this ensures that pupils know what they are being asked to do in order to learn. Most teachers make very good use of interactive whiteboards to interest and motivate pupils. Most lessons are conducted at a good pace, although in a minority of lessons, the pace slows and pupils' levels of motivation and concentration fall as a result.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade: 2

The curriculum meets the full range of learners' aspirations and capabilities in enjoyable and challenging ways. Provision is particularly good in music, physical education and French, where considerable expertise is available to enhance the depth of learning. The curriculum focuses effectively on developing pupils' speaking, listening, writing, number and computer skills, and prepares them well for the next stage of their schooling. The school's excellent range of external networks contributes well to the wide variety of learning experiences that pupils encounter. Good use is made of visits out of school, and the curriculum is enhanced effectively by a wide range of well-attended extra-curricular clubs which include a range of sporting activities. The school has developed some good cross-curricular links in order to make work more meaningful and motivating, but is aware that this is not yet consistent across all subjects.

Care, guidance and support

Grade: 2

The very high quality of pastoral care, guidance and support makes a very important contribution to securing pupils' good achievement and outstanding personal development. Vulnerable pupils, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, are supported exceptionally well through a range of initiatives and extremely good links with external agencies. Rigorous procedures are in place to ensure the safeguarding of pupils and to promote their safety and well-being. Arrangements to support pupils on entry from the many feeder nurseries and on transfer to secondary schools are highly effective. The analysis of data, including the tracking of pupils' progress, is thorough in Years 1 to 6, although the school is aware that improvements are needed to ensure that Early Years Foundation Stage data are more secure. Teachers work effectively to ensure that every pupil is supported. However, although some pupils know their targets, not all do, because these are not consistently used to inform pupils of their next steps.

Leadership and management

Grade: 2

Leaders have a clear focus on raising standards. Methods for evaluating the school's work, the effectiveness of decisions, and the areas to be improved are rigorous. Consequently, the school knows itself well, and accurately prioritises the important areas for development. In his relatively short time in post, the headteacher has initiated and supported a number of noteworthy improvements, including the recent whole-school drive to raise standards in writing and mathematics, and to improve the attainment of boys. These strategies are showing clear signs of success. The regular evaluation of lessons provides senior management with a clear view of the quality of teaching. The coordinators of English, mathematics and science have a good overall whole-school view of their areas of responsibility, and understand how to use the assessment data to check on the school's performance. However, leaders of other subjects are at an early stage of developing their monitoring and evaluation roles. The governors are hard-working and use their good understanding of the school effectively to hold it to account. The school is highly inclusive, so that all children have their welfare needs fully met and achieve well, regardless of their background. The school makes an outstanding contribution to community cohesion through its excellent local links, and its very good links with schools and organisations in the UK and overseas. There was an exceptional response to the parents' questionnaire, and the overwhelming majority of parents responding have very positive views of the school. One, typical of many, wrote: 'Brookfield is a great community school with an exciting new leadership team.'

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Annex A

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?	1
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	2

Effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the EYFS?	2
How well do children in the EYFS achieve?	2
How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the children in the EYFS?	1
How effectively are the children in the EYFS helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the EYFS promoted?	1
How effectively is provision in the EYFS led and managed?	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/or disabilities make progress	2

Personal development and well-being

How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the learners?	1
The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	1
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	1
How well learners enjoy their education	1
The attendance of learners	2
The behaviour of learners	2
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution to the community	1
How well learners develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being	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.

All white boxes must be completed. The grey boxes are used wherever the inspection team has sufficient evidence to come to a secure judgement.

² IE - denotes that insufficient evidence was available to inspectors for a judgement to be made.

The quality of provision

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

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 eliminated	1
How well does the school contribute to community cohesion?	1
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	1
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	2
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

Annex B

Letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection.

02 July 2009

Dear Pupils

Inspection of Brookfield Primary School, London, N19 5DH

I would like to thank you for your help during the recent inspection of your school. My colleagues and I very much enjoyed our visit.

Brookfield is a good school with some outstanding features. Your headteacher and staff are leading the school well. They care for you very well and give you good support to help you to enjoy your lessons and learn well. The adults make sure that you understand how to look after yourselves and keep safe. You told us that you really like your school, and that there are lots of things to do and enjoy. We agree with you. Your behaviour is good. You work hard and try to succeed in all that you do.

I have asked the headteacher and staff to do a couple of things that will make your school even better.

- Make sure you all do as well in mathematics and science as you do in English.
- Make better use of the information collected about the youngest children when they arrive in the Nursery, and about how they make progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Yours faithfully

Clive Lewis
Lead Inspector

