

St John Vianney RC Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	108501
Local Authority	Newcastle upon Tyne
Inspection number	309711
Inspection date	23 January 2008
Reporting inspector	Andrew Johnson HMI

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

Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	3–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	232
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr Ken Barnes
Headteacher	Mr Aidan Duffy
Date of previous school inspection	30 April 2004
School address	Hillhead Road West Denton Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NE5 1DN
Telephone number	0191 2672233
Fax number	0191 2679538

Age group	3-11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors. The inspector evaluated the overall effectiveness of the school and investigated issues relating to:

- achievement and standards
- teaching and learning
- personal development and well-being
- care, guidance and support
- leadership and management.

Evidence was gathered from lesson observations, the scrutiny of pupils' work, assessment data and school documents. Other aspects of the school's work were not investigated in detail, but the inspector found no evidence to suggest that the school's own assessments, as given in its self-evaluation, were not justified, and these have been included where appropriate in this report.

Description of the school

St John Vianney is a school of average size situated in the western part of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne. It draws pupils from a variety of social backgrounds, although the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is below the national average. Most of the pupils are of White British heritage. The proportion of pupil with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is below average and no pupils had a statement of special educational need at the time of the inspection. Most children start in the Nursery before moving into the Reception class. The school has gained a number of national accreditations in relation to health, sport, drugs education and the environment.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 1

This school provides an outstanding quality of education and care. It meets the objectives set out in its mission statement by providing a caring, happy school where everyone is valued and appreciated and pupils reach their full potential. This is achieved as a result of high quality teaching and the staff's determination that all will do as well as possible.

Pupils achieve high standards in their academic work. When they start the school, children have skills and levels of development that are typical for their age. They get off to a great start in Reception and make tremendous progress. By the end of Key Stage 1, standards in reading, writing and mathematics are significantly above average. In Key Stage 2, pupils continue to make excellent progress and reach high standards not just in the core subjects but across all curriculum areas. Standards have been high and improving since the previous inspection. The Year 6 group in 2007 made the best progress in the school's history. All pupils, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, do equally well because the school is so successful at providing the extra support they need.

Pupils really enjoy school life and learning. They are very keen to learn and try hard to achieve their targets. Their behaviour is excellent. Pupils form mature and sensible relationships with their peers and with adults. These developments, together with their high academic standards, give them a very good starting point for their secondary education. Pupils say that bullying or name-calling hardly ever happens, but if it does, it is dealt with swiftly and effectively by staff. Attendance levels are above average and unauthorised absences almost non-existent. Older pupils help younger ones and the school council makes a very useful contribution to the school community.

The overall quality of teaching is outstanding, as is clearly evident from pupils' progress. Teachers work very hard to make classrooms lively and stimulating places. Lessons are very well planned and teachers work imaginatively to compensate for the lack of space in some areas of the school. Individual pupils' progress is closely monitored and work is well matched to challenging targets. Great emphasis is placed on ensuring pupils know what they need to do to improve, particularly in Key Stage 2. Teaching assistants and other staff work extremely effectively to support all pupils and enable them to reach their potential.

There is a good curriculum that is adapted to meet the needs of all pupils. However, due to the limited space in the school, the number and variety of enrichment activities offered at lunchtime and after school are restricted. The school recognises this and works hard to provide alternative activities.

Pastoral care is of the highest quality. Staff are dedicated to supporting the needs of every pupil. All the required procedures with regard to child protection and risk assessment are in place. Well over half of parents provided their opinions about the school. The views of the overwhelming majority are summed up by one parent who said, 'This school goes from strength to strength; all my children have loved attending it and have received an excellent start to their education.'

The headteacher and his senior team provide outstanding leadership. They have created a school in which both pupils and teachers flourish. The effectiveness of the school is monitored rigorously and no one is allowed to rest on their laurels. The school's self-evaluation is accurate and clearly identifies ways in which it can improve; however, it was unduly modest in grading some aspects of the school's work, notably the quality of teaching and learning and the quality

of leadership. Governance is very good. Governors know the school well, support it and hold it to account. They are aware that parts of the school buildings could be enhanced and plans are in place to make improvements. The school has an outstanding capacity to improve and gives excellent value for money.

Effectiveness of the Foundation Stage

Grade: 1

Children who start in Reception have a range of learning and personal development skills that are about average for their age. They make excellent progress, particularly in their social skills and reading. There are very good links with parents and carers that ensure the children feel very secure and happy in school. Children are extremely well prepared for the next stage in their learning and transition arrangements are very carefully planned.

What the school should do to improve further

- Increase the space available to expand the number and variety of extra-curricular activities.

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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?	1
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 effectiveness of the Foundation Stage	1
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	1

Achievement and standards

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

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	1
The behaviour of learners	1
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	1

The quality of provision

How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of the learners' needs?	1
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?	1

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?	1
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	1
How effectively leaders and managers use challenging targets to raise standards	1
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	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	1
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

23 January 2008

Inspection number

309711

24 January 2008

Dear Pupils

Inspection of St John Vianney RC Primary School, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 1DN

As you know, I recently visited your school to see how good it was and how well you were doing. Thank you for making me feel so welcome. I enjoyed seeing your lessons and talking to you. I'd like to say a special thank you to the pupils who gave me a guided tour and told me about school life from the pupils' point of view.

I have given your school top marks because I think it is outstanding. I have listed below the things that are especially good.

- You enjoy learning and make excellent progress particularly in English, mathematics and science.
- The school helps you to grow up well and be responsible and caring.
- The teaching is excellent. The staff expect a lot of you and you repay them by trying very hard.
- The headteacher is a very good leader and he has built a very strong team to help him.

I agree with the headteacher that there is one main thing the school could do to improve even further. The school is short of space and needs to expand the number of activities that you can take part in at lunchtime and after school.

I am sure that you will keep on working hard and enjoying learning.

With all best wishes for the future

Andrew Johnson

Her Majesty's Inspector