



Townley Primary School

Inspection report

**Better
education
and care**

Unique Reference Number 110630
LEA Cambridgeshire

Inspection number 278472
Inspection dates 8 – 9 June 2006
Reporting inspector Colin Henderson

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

Type of School	Primary	School address	Crown Drove
School category	Community		Christchurch
Age range of pupils	4 - 11		Wisbech
			Cambridgeshire
			PE14 9NA
Gender of pupils	Mixed	Telephone number	01354 638229
Number on roll	68	Fax number	01354 638229
Appropriate authority	The governing body	Chair of governors	Mr John Garlick
Date of previous inspection	1 - 3 November 1999	Headteacher	Mr Robert Glozier

Age group 4 - 11	Published June 2006	Reference no. 278472
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by an Additional Inspector.

Description of the school

This is a small school that mainly serves its local village community and the surrounding area. All pupils are of White British background and speak English as their first language. The proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals is broadly average. The number of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is above average, with high levels in some years. Attainment on entry varies due to the small numbers of pupils in each year. It is below average overall, with many children having weak language and literacy skills.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

This is a good school in which pupils achieve well. It is valued highly by parents and pupils and gives good value for money. Children get off to a good start and, by the end of Reception, they attain nationally expected levels in most areas of learning except literacy. Pupils make good progress overall as a result of good teaching, their desire to learn and the good quality support they receive. Pupils behave well and clearly enjoy learning. Standards of attainment vary significantly each year due to the small numbers of pupils and the high proportion who find learning difficult in some year groups. Pupils this year are attaining standards that are below average overall by the end of Year 2, with many having started school with particularly weak language and literacy skills. By the end of Year 6, pupils attain average standards overall, although spelling weaknesses limit the accuracy of their writing. Standards are improving significantly as better tracking of pupils' progress helps teachers to meet pupils' learning needs. Good support from teachers and teaching assistants helps all pupils to achieve well, particularly those who find learning difficult. Teachers help pupils to know how to improve their work, although this is not consistently effective in each class.

Townley Primary is a caring and supportive school that works hard to ensure that all pupils are included fully in its good range of activities. The school rightly views itself as good and its process of self-evaluation is satisfactory. The headteacher leads the school well and provides a good focus on raising standards. Improvement since the last inspection has been good and the school is well placed to continue to improve. There is a strong and supportive team of staff and governors, although procedures to check how well the school is doing are not always rigorous enough.

Grade: 2

What the school should do to improve further

- Improve pupils' spelling by increasing accuracy to further raise standards in writing.
- Help pupils to know what they need to do to improve their work.
- Develop the effectiveness of teaching by improving governors' and subject leaders' understanding of its effect on pupils' learning.

Achievement and standards

Pupils achieve well. Many start in Reception with below average attainments, especially in literacy. Reception children make good progress as they benefit from good teaching, a lively curriculum and from working alongside their Year 1 classmates. They attain nationally expected standards in most areas of learning, with the exception of literacy.

Standards in Year 2 are below average this year; the year group has a very high proportion of pupils who find learning hard. The consistently good and often outstanding teaching helps pupils in Years 2 to 4 to make good progress. This is built on successfully in Years 5 and 6. By the end of Year 6, inspection evidence shows that pupils are attaining average standards overall. This is an improvement on the school's results in national tests over the last two years. Detailed assessments show that an increasing number of pupils are now attaining above average levels. The school met its challenging targets in 2005 in English and mathematics, a year group that had almost 50% of pupils with learning difficulties.

Teachers match activities to pupils' learning needs so achievement is good. More able pupils are required to extend their skills and knowledge and more are attaining above average levels in tests. Gifted and talented pupils successfully apply their skills and knowledge, for example, in mathematical challenges. Pupils who find learning difficult receive good quality individual support from teachers and effective teaching assistants. They make good progress towards their learning targets and many attain nationally expected levels.

Grade: 2

Personal development and well-being

Pupils' personal development and well-being are promoted successfully in a caring, supportive atmosphere that is valued highly by parents. One parent said, 'The school feels more like a family'. Relationships are very good as pupils are effectively taught to value and respect each other. Their enjoyment of school is shown clearly in their positive approach to learning and their good behaviour. Older pupils take on responsibilities willingly, for example, looking after younger ones at lunchtime. Attendance is satisfactory overall, although it has dipped recently due to high levels of illness and the limited attendance of a very small number of pupils. Pupils have a good understanding of safe and healthy lifestyles and many are involved in a good range of sporting clubs and activities. The active school council gives pupils an effective voice in helping to improve the school, for example, by improving play resources. They improve their economic awareness by working together to plan a fund raising event and managing a budget.

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good. The school makes good use of assemblies and class discussions to encourage pupils to reflect upon their feelings and their contributions to the school and local village community. The school makes good use of visits to enhance pupils' cultural development, for example, to a mosque in Peterborough.

Grade: 2

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Teaching is good overall, with some outstanding features. Most lessons are lively, well planned and resourced. Teachers use a good range of styles to ensure pupils of all abilities learn well. This leads to pupils' enjoyment of learning and their good progress, reflected in a parent's comment that, 'Our children have an eagerness to learn more due to enthusiastic teachers'. Teachers know their pupils very well and use assessments effectively to match learning activities to pupils' needs, particularly in literacy and numeracy. This is supported well by detailed planning for mixed age classes and a successful partnership between teachers and teaching assistants that helps all pupils to achieve well. Teachers use questions skilfully to encourage pupils to contribute their ideas, although they do not consistently use more challenging questions that require more able pupils to extend their knowledge.

Assessment procedures have improved, especially in English, mathematics and science. Teachers use information increasingly effectively to track pupils' achievements and to identify groups of pupils that need support. This contributes considerably to pupils' improving standards. At the end of lessons, some teachers encourage pupils to assess how well they think they have achieved and to check on their improvement targets. This process helps pupils to understand what they need to improve. However, this technique is not implemented consistently in each class. Teachers' marking of pupils' work is positive and encouraging, although it rarely indicates how pupils can improve.

Grade: 2

Curriculum and other activities

The curriculum is good throughout the school. Reception children make good progress because learning activities closely match their needs and interests. Adults strike a successful balance between teacher directed activities and helping children to choose activities for themselves to ensure that they experience all areas of learning. The curriculum is varied and planned in detail

to meet pupils' different learning needs, especially those who find learning difficult. The good opportunities for more able pupils and those with particular gifts and talents enable an increasing number to attain above average standards.

Pupils enjoy participating in the many additional activities that the school organises, for example, sporting and musical activities. A good range of trips and visits, for example, the very successful recent residential trip to Derbyshire, enhances pupils' personal development and extends their learning well. The school makes effective use of its extensive outdoor facilities to support its good range of activities.

Grade: 2

Care, guidance and support

Teachers and other staff provide good personal care and support, although guidance to help pupils improve their work is not sufficiently well established. There are effective systems for ensuring pupils' safety and security, for example, good child protection arrangements. Pupils trust the adults in school and are confident to approach them with any concerns. The school has good links with other agencies to provide additional support for pupils who find learning difficult.

The monitoring of attendance is good and the school works hard to encourage parents to ensure their children attend regularly. Pupils are encouraged to work hard and behave well through gaining stickers and TOPS awards in the weekly celebration assembly. The links with a local high school and the nearby preschool unit are good. This helps pupils to transfer smoothly to their next stage of schooling, for example, when Year 6 pupils use their information and communication technology skills to prepare a personal presentation to be given at their new school.

Grade: 3

Leadership and management

The headteacher provides good leadership. He has a good understanding of what needs to be done and is developing systems that help check pupils' progress better in key subjects. These are raising standards of attainment. He monitors teaching regularly. This helps to maintain the good quality, although procedures to rigorously evaluate how teaching extends pupils' learning are not consistently established.

There is a strong staff team, supported well by governors, who are working hard to improve the school and increase pupil numbers. Funds are used well to improve provision, for example, by more effective classroom support and better facilities in the Foundation Stage. Procedures to check on how well the school is doing are becoming more effective, although the school recognises the need for a greater involvement of subject leaders and governors. The school increasingly takes into account the views of parents and pupils and contributes very well to local village community events. Good leadership and an effective staff team, supported well by improving management and self-evaluation procedures, are raising standards rapidly and put the school in a good position to improve further.

Grade: 2

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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
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being?	2
The quality and standards in the Foundation Stage	2
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	3
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	Yes
Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes

Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	2
The <i>standards</i> ¹ reached by learners	3
How well learners make <i>progress</i> , 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 behaviour of learners	2
The attendance of learners	3
How well learners enjoy their education	2
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	2
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	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 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?	3

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

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 performance is monitored, evaluated and improved to meet challenging targets, through quality assurance and self-review	3
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 are deployed to achieve value for money	2
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	3
The adequacy and suitability of staff to ensure that learners are protected	Yes
Does this school require special measures?	No
Does this school require a notice to improve?	No

The extent to which schools enable learners to be healthy	
Learners are encouraged and enabled to eat and drink healthily.	Yes
Learners are encouraged and enabled to take regular exercise.	Yes
Learners are discouraged from smoking and substance abuse.	Yes
Learners are educated about sexual health.	Yes
The extent to which providers ensure that learners stay safe.	
Procedures for safeguarding learners meet current government requirements.	Yes
Risk assessment procedures and related staff training are in place.	Yes
Action is taken to reduce anti-social behaviour, such as bullying and racism.	Yes
Learners are taught about key risks and how to deal with them.	Yes
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution	
Learners are helped to develop stable, positive relationships.	Yes
Learners, individually and collectively, participate in making decisions that affect them.	Yes
Learners are encouraged to initiate, participate in and manage activities in school and the wider community.	Yes
The extent to which schools enable learners to achieve economic well-being	
There is provision to promote learners' basic skills.	Yes
Learners have opportunities to develop enterprise skills and work in teams.	Yes

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London WC2B 6SE

T 0207 421 6800
F 0207 421 6707
www.ofsted.gov.uk



Townley Primary School
Crown Drove
Christchurch
Wisbech
Cambridgeshire
PE14 9NA

12 June 2006

Dear Children

Thank you for being so friendly and making me feel welcome when I visited your school. I enjoyed talking to you, looking at your work and watching you learn.

What is good about your school:

- Your teachers and other adults care about you as individuals, make sure that you are safe and listen to your opinions about school.
- You get on well together and are kind to each other. I particularly like the way older pupils help the younger ones at lunchtime.
- You behave well and clearly enjoy school. This means that teachers can get on with the job of helping you learn.
- Your lessons are interesting and all the adults put a lot of effort into helping you do well. You enjoy your work and try hard to do what you are asked. I think you learn well.
- The school puts on extra activities to help you have fun, such as the clubs and trips out of school. I know you enjoy these very much.
- Mr. Glozier, the teachers and governors have good ideas about how to make your school better. They are working hard to make this happen.
- Your parents think it is a good school, and I agree.

What I have asked the school to do now:

- Help you to improve your spelling and use it accurately in your writing.
- Help you to know what you need to do next to improve your work.
- Provide more opportunities for governors and teachers to look carefully at lessons and see where they can help you to achieve even better.

I hope that you continue to be happy at school and carry on working hard.

Very best wishes

Colin Henderson (Lead Inspector).