

Holland Moor Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	119323
Local Authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	313257
Inspection dates	30 April –1 May 2008
Reporting inspector	Ann Wallis

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	360
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mrs Debbie Dudley
Headteacher	Mr Michael Beale
Date of previous school inspection	1 June 2005
School address	Cornbrook Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 9AG
Telephone number	01695 725062
Fax number	01695 559304

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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by three Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

Holland Moor is a much larger than average school with nursery provision and it serves an area of high deprivation. An above average proportion of pupils have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and a well above average proportion have a statement of special educational need. Most pupils are of White British heritage and very few speak English as an additional language. An above average percentage of pupils are eligible for free school meals. Six pupils attend a school-based special education resource facility for pupils with speech and language difficulties.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 1

Holland Moor is an outstanding school. All pupils are valued as individuals and receive excellent care, guidance and support to help them achieve their best, especially those who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The highly committed and talented staff work as a well-integrated team to achieve the school's aim of 'bringing out the best in every child'. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. They used the words 'fantastic', 'brilliant', 'superb' and 'wonderful' time and time again to describe the work of the school and its staff. The curriculum has an outstanding depth and richness especially in its provision for dance, music, art and sport. Striking features of the school include the beautiful sculpture park in the grounds, the high quality artwork on the walls and the sound of lively music which accompanies the pupils' excellent dance routines.

Standards are above average and achievement is outstanding. From below and often well below average starting points when they enter the Nursery pupils make excellent progress to be on track to reach above average standards when they leave school at the end of Year 6. Pupils achieve so very well because teaching is outstanding. Teachers have very high expectations of their pupils and manage their classes exceptionally well. Pupils never have time to become restless because lessons are extremely interesting and fast paced. Work is marked very thoroughly and excellent use is made of assessment information to identify any pupils who need extra help and plan their future learning.

The high quality care, guidance and support that the school promotes result in outstanding personal development for all pupils. Ensuring that all pupils are happy, healthy, safe and achieving their best is at the very heart of the school's work. The academic guidance pupils receive is excellent so they are very clear about how to work towards the challenging targets the school sets for them. Pupils, particularly the most vulnerable, respond outstandingly well to the calm, caring, safe and supportive atmosphere in the school. Their behaviour is exemplary. They clearly know right from wrong, are very keen to take on responsibilities within their own community and are very sensitive to the feelings of others. They understand well how to stay safe and healthy and really enjoy taking regular exercise by participating in the very wide range of sporting opportunities that the school offers.

Leadership and management of the school are outstanding. The very experienced headteacher inspires his staff to provide the best possible education for every child. He is relentless in seeking funds to provide a very high quality learning environment and skilled in appointing and nurturing talented staff who use challenging targets to ensure all pupils achieve the very best they can. All staff continually strive to improve further and given their track record of improvement since the previous inspection have demonstrated ample capacity to do so. The school's excellent links with partners both enrich the curriculum and ensure there is the very best support for all pupils, whatever their special needs. Governors are very supportive of the school and, like parents and pupils, recognise its outstanding qualities. The school provides outstanding value for money.

Effectiveness of the Foundation Stage

Grade: 2

Provision in the Foundation Stage is good. Children enjoy school and work and play together well. Attainment on entry is below and often well below that most frequently found for children

of the same age nationally. As a result of good teaching, achievement and progress are good. By the time they leave the Reception class a few children are reaching the level expected for their age but most remain below this. Progress is best in the areas of personal, social and emotional development and in communication, language and literacy skills. Leadership and management of the curriculum, the attractive environment for learning and the involvement of parents are good. All adults have a good understanding of all the required areas of learning and of how young children learn. Teachers maintain records of children's development in practical ways so that work is matched to individual needs. Strategies introduced this year to further develop the effectiveness of the Foundation Stage are working well and are bringing about the planned improvements. However, despite the school's efforts to promote children's independence, many of them remain too reliant on direction by adults.

What the school should do to improve further

- Increase the opportunities for children in the Foundation Stage to take responsibility for their own learning.

Achievement and standards

Grade: 1

Pupils' overall achievement across the school is outstanding so that by Year 6 they have reached above average standards.

Pupils enter Year 1 with standards below those expected for their age. Current pupils of all abilities are making at least good and often outstanding progress to reach broadly average and sometimes above average standards as they near the end of Year 2. Key Stage 1 assessments were broadly average in 2007 although they have been higher in previous years. The school recognises that these assessments have been over generous in the past, leading to insecure comparisons with achievement in other schools nationally at the end of Year 6. Excellent systems have now been put in place to ensure that assessments in Years 1 and 2 are accurate. From these more realistic starting points pupils' progress and achievement in Key Stage 2 can be measured with greater precision.

Pupils build upon their excellent start in Key Stage 1 and continue to make outstanding progress as they move through the school. The school's detailed monitoring of pupils' progress indicates that the current Year 6 are on track to reach above average standards in national tests this year. Inspection evidence confirms the school's assessment. All groups of pupils achieve well. The well above average numbers of pupils with statements of special educational need achieve exceptionally well because of the excellent support they receive from teachers and teaching assistants.

Personal development and well-being

Grade: 1

Pupils' personal development and well-being are outstanding. All pupils develop very well as mature and confident learners. Their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. Pupils readily explain what they know and understand about the traditions and cultures of people of diverse ethnic heritage. Older pupils act as very good role models for younger children. They willingly accept responsibilities for tasks around school including serving as playground buddies. They know very well the need to be truthful and trustworthy. Pupils thoroughly enjoy coming to school, showing really positive attitudes to work and play. Behaviour

in lessons and around the school is excellent. Attendance is close to the national average and is improving due to the school's exhaustive and innovative efforts to encourage all pupils to come to school regularly. Pupils are emphatic that they feel safe in school. They are confident that their feelings are always respected and that any hint of bullying will be dealt with effectively. They understand why a healthy diet helps them to grow and learn. With well developed skills and excellent attitudes to learning, pupils are in a good position to get the most out of their life in the next phase of education and beyond.

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade: 1

The key strengths in teaching are high expectations, very well managed classes and high quality relationships with the pupils. Pupils enjoy lessons because of the well structured sequence of activities which makes lessons come alive. Excellent use is made of assessment information about pupils' progress, and there are some very good examples of teachers using marking to provide pointers for improvement. They involve pupils' skilfully in setting challenging targets for improvement and ensure the tasks they are asked to do are suited very well to their needs. Teachers' quick-fire questioning keeps pupils on their toes and learning is highly effective, particularly in Years 2 and 6. Very good use is made of teachers' specific skills, for example to enhance pupils' learning experiences in music and dance. Every opportunity is taken to use information and communication technology (ICT) effectively to support the work pupils are asked to do. Teaching assistants provide very good support and ensure that pupils, especially those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, make exceptional progress.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade: 1

The curriculum is outstanding and careful planning for individual learners ensures that it is extremely well matched to the needs of all pupils. The staff use very varied and imaginative resources to support pupils' personal development. Provision for the above average numbers of pupils with a statement of special educational need is excellent. It is also outstanding for pupils in the special educational resource facility who have speech and language difficulties. Pupils are well prepared for their futures because they develop good basic skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT and clearly understand the importance of teamwork. Provision for dance, music, art and sport are outstanding, leading to the national Artsmark and Activemark awards. The outstanding and diverse opportunities offered and enthusiastically taken up by pupils through clubs range from doing Tai Chi to playing the ukulele and learning Spanish. The curriculum is very flexible and is reviewed regularly to take advantage of new learning ideas and to meet the needs of current pupils. All statutory requirements are met.

Care, guidance and support

Grade: 1

The care, guidance and support for all children, especially the most vulnerable, are outstanding. The teaching and support staff know pupils extremely well and are dedicated to meeting their needs. All required safeguarding arrangements, and procedures for child protection and health and safety are in place. When pupils transfer to local secondary schools, transition arrangements are managed very well. The school has excellent working links with other schools, the local

authority and other agencies such as those supporting pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Pupils receive high quality academic guidance. Those who are at risk of underachieving are provided with rapid and very well targeted intervention and support. There are very good challenges for those pupils capable of attaining higher academic levels or with specific talents to excel, for example, in dance or art.

Leadership and management

Grade: 1

Leadership and management are outstanding. Under the excellent leadership of the headteacher, all staff feel valued and are exceptionally loyal to the school. Morale is remarkably high. Leaders and managers at all levels carry out their roles exceptionally well and play an important part in determining the strategic direction of the school. New systems to ensure consistency in assessing pupils' work, to track their progress and to intervene in their learning when needed are robust and are proving very effective in raising standards. Self-evaluation is both rigorous and perceptive so the school knows itself well. Governors are very supportive of the school. Teaching and learning are monitored regularly and the marking of pupils' work and teachers' planning is very carefully checked. There is absolutely no sense of complacency at Holland Moor which is why it is so well placed to improve further.

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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	2
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	1

Achievement and standards

How well do learners achieve?	1
The standards ¹ reached by learners	2
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	3
The behaviour of learners	1
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?	1
How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners?	1
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	1
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	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

Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

2 May 2008

Dear Pupils

Inspection of Holland Moor Primary School, Lancashire, WN8 9AG

Thank you so much for the very warm welcome you gave us when we visited your school last week. We were really impressed with the confident and enthusiastic way you talked about all the outstanding things your school provides for you. We loved seeing you enjoying so many interesting lessons and were very impressed with your excellent dance routines and wonderful artwork.

This is what we have said about your school in our report.

- Holland Moor is an outstanding school and it is led and managed exceptionally well.
- Your achievement is outstanding and you reach above average standards by Year 6.
- You are exceptionally well cared for, guided and supported.
- Children in the Nursery and Reception classes make good progress.
- Teaching and learning, your personal development and the range of subjects you study are all outstanding.

This is what we have asked your school to do to improve learning even more:

- Give younger children more opportunities to learn things for themselves as well as being guided by their teachers.

We know that you and your parents really appreciate what an excellent school Holland Moor is. Please continue to attend school regularly and work with your teachers to achieve the very best you can.

Yours sincerely

Ann Wallis

Lead inspector