
**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN 2004: SCHOOLS INSPECTED BY OFSTED
BETWEEN 1 SEPTEMBER 2003 AND 31 JULY 2004**

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Chris McEwan, Children's Services Portfolio

Responsible Director(s) - Geoff Pennington, Director of Education

Purpose of Report

1. This report details the judgements made about the quality of education offered by those schools in Darlington that were subject to OFSTED inspection during the period 1 September 2003 to 31 July 2004.

Information and Analysis

2. Under Section 10 of the School Inspections Act 1996, all schools are subject to regular inspection by OFSTED trained inspectors. A new framework for inspection was introduced on 1 September 2003. Schools can now expect to be inspected within six years of their last inspection.
3. The Inspection Framework requires OFSTED teams to make an overarching judgement in each school about the standards attained by pupils, pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, the quality of teaching and learning and the quality of leadership and management. A wide range of supporting judgements underpins these main judgements. Inspection judgements are based on a scale of one to seven where one is *excellent* and 7 is *very poor*. Grade four is deemed to be *satisfactory*.
4. During the period identified for this report, seven primary schools and two secondary schools were subject to inspection under the new inspection framework. The primary schools inspected were Abbey Junior, High Conniscliffe CE Primary, St Augustine's RC Primary, St John's CE Primary, North Road Primary, Reid Street Primary, Springfield Primary. The secondary schools inspected were Hurworth School and Haughton Community School. **No school was identified by OfSTED as a school causing concern.**
5. In addition to the nine schools subject to routine inspection, one secondary school – Eastbourne - was subject to termly monitoring visits by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools (HMI). This followed the school being identified as requiring special measures when previously inspected in 2002. The HMI monitoring visits over the course of the academic year in question were positive about Eastbourne's progress, resulting ultimately in the school being removed from Special Measures in November 2004.

6. The summary judgement made about the overall effectiveness of each of the schools inspected ranged from sound to very effective. No school was judged to be providing an unsatisfactory standard of education for its pupils. All schools were judged to provide at least satisfactory value for money, with two of the schools judged to be providing very good value for money. High Coniscliffe CE Primary School was judged to be providing excellent value for money. Only one school was judged to be less effective than when it was previously inspected.
7. The overall standards achieved in the schools inspected were at least average in all schools except one. At Haughton Community School, the overall standards were judged to be unsatisfactory. In six of the schools standards were judged to be above average or better.
8. The overall judgements that relate to the quality of teaching show that, in general, most of the teaching observed in the schools inspected was satisfactory or better. A significant proportion in each school was good or better. Over a quarter of the teaching was very good or better in six out of the nine schools inspected. In High Coniscliffe CE Primary, approximately one lesson in five was judged to be excellent, with seven lessons out of ten judged to be very good or excellent. The quality of assessment was, however, identified as an issue at North Road Primary and Reid Street Primary.

% of Teaching	Abbey Juns	High Con	North Road	Reid Street	S'field Prim	St Aug'nes	St Johns	Haughton	Hurworth
Excellent	0	18	0	2	0	0	3	4	4
Very Good	8	50	3	24	26	33	28	13	41
Good	53	25	33	22	41	55	50	43	31
Satisfactory	32	7	56	43	30	12	21	34	21
Unsatisfactory	6	0	8	7	3	0	0	4	4
Poor	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0
Very Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

9. Pupils' attitudes to learning were at least satisfactory in all the schools inspected. In six of the schools they were very good or excellent. Behaviour was judged to be very good or excellent in more than half of the schools. Attendance at Springfield Primary and Haughton was below average; it was poor at North Road Primary
10. The overall judgments that relate to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development show that this is an area of strength across the nine schools. In nearly all schools it was at least good, and often better.

SMSC	Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development
Excellent	High Coniscliffe CE Primary
Very Good	St Johns CE Springfield Primary St Augustines RC Primary
Good	Reid Street Primary Abbey Juniors Haughton Hurworth
Satisfactory	North Road Primary

11. The curriculum was judged to meet the needs of pupils in all schools and curriculum enrichment, including out-of-school activities, was a strength across the nine schools, with this being judged at least good in every school. All schools were judged to have at least good links with the community and links with other schools was judged very good in nearly all schools.
12. The quality of leadership provided by the headteacher in all schools was at least good. In most schools it was very good or excellent. The quality of leadership provided by other key staff was at least satisfactory in all schools. In most schools it was good or better. The direction and support given by governors was at least satisfactory in all schools. In most schools governance was good or better. These judgments about the quality of leadership, management and governance are crucial in supporting the positive judgments noted earlier about the overall effectiveness of these schools.

Quality of Leadership	Headteacher	Other Key Staff	Governance
Excellent	High Coniscliffe CE St Johns CE Hurworth	High Coniscliffe CE	
Very Good	Springfield Primary St Augustines RC	Hurworth	St Johns CE High Coniscliffe Springfield
Good	Abbey Junior North Road Primary Reid Street Primary Haughton	St Johns CE Reid Street Primary Springfield Prim St Augustines RC Haughton	Reid Street St Augustines Haughton Hurworth
Satisfactory		Abbey Junior North Road Primary	North Road Abbey Junior

13. All schools had identified areas for improvement. There is no pattern in the areas identified. These areas include:
- a. Foundation Stage – outdoor learning opportunities;
 - b. Challenge for more-able pupils;
 - c. Monitoring by subject managers;
 - d. Use of assessment to inform future planning;
 - e. Provision for Foundation subjects in primary schools;
 - f. Boys’ attainment in secondary.

The local authority is supporting all schools in addressing the identified areas for improvement.

14. Appendix 1 shows the judgements made for each school inspected during this period.

Legal Implications

15. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

16. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

17. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

Decision Deadline

18. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

Conclusion

19. The quality of education provided by those schools inspected during the period 1 September 2003 to 31 July 2004 was judged to be at least satisfactory in all cases. In six out of the nine schools it was judged to be good or better. The local authority can be pleased with the overall performance of schools inspected during this period.

Recommendations

20. It is recommended:-
 - (a) That Members note the positive inspection outcomes for those schools inspected during the last academic year; and
 - (b) That Members consider expressing their appreciation of the positive inspection outcomes to the governing bodies of those schools identified in this report

Reasons

22. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-
 - (a) the report allows members to monitor standards of performance in the Authority's Schools; and
 - (b) to recognise the achievements of schools

Geoff Pennington, Director of Education

Background Papers

Appendix 1 shows comparative summaries of main inspection judgements

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