

## Barker's Lane Community School Inspection – 23 & 24 Sept 2009

Stephen Dennett

Grade 1	Good with outstanding features
Grade 2	Good with no important shortcomings
Grade 3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
Grade 4	Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
Grade 5	Many important shortcomings

ESTYN decided that we should have a short inspection.

The school provides a high quality education for all its pupils, which meets its needs successfully. Teaching is consistently good, enabling pupils to achieve high standards by the end of Year 6..... The curriculum is outstanding and greatly enhanced by the excellent outdoor environment. Senior leaders promote clear educational values and are very well supported by the governing body.

Key Question		Inspection Grade
1	How well do learners achieve?	1
2	How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	2
3	How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	1
4	How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	2
5	How effective are leadership and strategic management?	1
6	How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	2
7	How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	1

Pupils' personal, social and learning skills are very good. Behaviour is also very good. At 95.3%, pupils achieve very good levels of attendance.

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. Pupils have a good understanding of their Welsh culture and the wider world.

The curriculum is balanced, broad and equally accessible to all pupils. The school has developed extensive outdoor provision which is used well to enhance the curriculum.

The school's provision for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is also an outstanding feature.

The school has outstanding links with parents. Parents corroborated this in the parents' pre-inspection meeting where they were keen to stress that they were extremely happy with the quality of provision.

Pupils have an excellent understanding of sustainable development and conservation issues. Their awareness of the international dimension and global citizenship is also an outstanding feature of the school.

The school is a happy, caring community where pupils are highly valued and supported. The school very successfully promotes a caring ethos and its commitment to achieving high standards is outstanding. These values are shared by staff, parents and pupils and are evident in all the school's work.

The governing body makes an outstanding contribution to the leadership and management of the school. Governors are very well informed about the school's performance and are proactive in helping set its strategic direction.

There are good systems in place for matching resources to the school's priorities for development. The high standards achieved by the pupils demonstrate that the school provides outstanding learning experiences, is effectively managed and provides very good value for money.

Pupils' personal, social and learning skills are very good. They are well motivated in all classes and work productively. Nearly all pupils behave very responsibly. This is an outstanding feature and contributes to their very good progress and development. There is great respect shown by pupils for their peers and all other age groups.

An outstanding feature is the project and exchanges that occur with seven schools in Europe from the Comenius project.

The school takes appropriate account of national priorities and is successfully implementing the skills-based curriculum and the Foundation Phase. It has also been very effective in ensuring pupils have an outstanding understanding of sustainability and environmental issues.

The governing body makes an outstanding contribution to the leadership and management of the school. It is very supportive of the headteacher and staff, and promotes the school in the community effectively. All statutory requirements are met, including those for collective worship and complaints.

The quality of accommodation, including the adjacent community centre, which provides facilities for the after school clubs, is good. The forest school facility and sensory garden area are outstanding features which enhance pupils' opportunities for learning about the environment, as well as promoting aspects of spirituality. The school grounds are very well kept and provide a good size sports field and horticultural areas. These are all accessible and maintained well by the pupils. The outdoor activity areas are used very effectively as part of the provision for children within the Foundation Phase.

The headteacher, management team and all staff and governors of Barker's Lane Community School welcome recognition for the high standards and quality of our school. We are pleased that all teaching was good or better in 100% of the lessons observed and that the schools' performance over time has significantly and consistently exceeded its very challenging targets across the whole age ranges. In a predominantly English speaking area we are delighted that we are making such pleasing progress with the Welsh curriculum and bilingualism across the whole school.