

Childrens Hospital at Great Ormond Street and UCH

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100060
Local Authority	Camden
Inspection number	276246
Inspection date	9 March 2006
Reporting inspector	Melvyn Blackband

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

Type of school	Special
School category	Foundation
Age range of pupils	4-16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr Andrew Fane Mrs Yvonne Hill
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Great Ormond Street GOS Hospital for Children London WC1N 3JH
Telephone number	02078138269
Fax number	02078138269

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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

The Children's Hospital School is a Foundation special school. It works in close partnership with Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and with the recently opened and rebuilt University College Hospital (UCH). The school's management has responsibility for education on both sites. The actual roll of the school varies. Some pupils remain long term patients while others attend for short periods of time. The learners have a spectrum of medical and sometimes complex mental health needs. Pupils arrive at the school with a wide range of ability, from pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties to those deemed gifted and talented.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade:

What the school should do to improve further

* Continue to work with the Hospital Trust to improve the accommodation.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching at both sites is characterised by very high expectations and richly stimulating activities. As a result of highly effective teaching which ensures that the needs of every pupil are fully met, all learners, including those in the Foundation Stage, make excellent progress and enjoy their work. They are encouraged to be as independent as possible. Teachers display extremely high levels of skill and subject knowledge. They teach with enthusiasm and flair, using questions very well to constantly check pupils' understanding. Teamwork is very good and competent classroom assistants provide excellent support. Pupils consequently receive a very high standard of personal tuition. Assessment is a strength. Teachers very quickly establish the appropriate levels at which to pitch the pupils' work. For instance, a Year 7 boy with complex needs, in his very first lesson in the schoolroom, made excellent progress in identifying musical rhythms, through the teacher's knowledge of the subject and her skilful assessment of the pupil's attainment. Teachers create specific programmes for each pupil, which are closely monitored and refined to take account of every step in the pupils' progress.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

At all levels the curriculum is broad and balanced and extremely well adapted to the individual needs of learners. Programmes for each pupil are rigorously monitored by senior staff. Foundation Stage pupils have considerable opportunities to direct their learning through play and the post 16 pupil is being successfully taught to GCSE 'A' level standard. There is a very strong emphasis on communication skills throughout the age range, coupled with very good learning in literacy and numeracy. Many teachers are specialists and they, together with visiting professionals, deliver an exceptionally rich and varied curriculum. During the inspection, for example, pupils were taught cooking skills by a visiting chef of international reputation. Since pupils cannot leave the hospital, teachers ensure that they gain understanding of the world through the contribution of visitors and through access to the internet. The high quality provision for personal, social and health education has a significant impact in developing the pupils' knowledge of personal safety and the advantages of a healthy lifestyle. The use of ICT to support the pupils' learning is exemplary and the school leads national development, in hospital schools, in the use of appropriate technology. Accommodation at University College

Hospital (UCH) and in some teaching areas at Great Ormond Street is very good but the main teaching room and storage facilities remain only satisfactory.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

Parents recognise that the school provides an exceptionally safe and caring environment for pupils. Child protection procedures are very secure and there is rigorous monitoring of risk assessment and adults' access to children. Pupils make very good progress in learning about their personal safety and well being. Liaison with the pupils' base schools is a particular strength, since this establishes very good communication and support for pupils as they return to their schools and enables the hospital schools to maintain continuity in the pupils' education whilst they are undergoing treatment. Pupils are aware and proud of the progress they are making. Teachers ensure they achieve success in meeting challenging targets. Parents confirm that communication with school is excellent and that they and their children are extremely well informed about progress. There are very good procedures to involve pupils in their own learning and in self-assessment.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Annex B**Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection**

Not long ago we came to your school to have a look at how well you were getting on and whether there was anything we could suggest to make the school better. You made us very welcome and we enjoyed your company. Well done and thank you!

I was with you for two days and my colleague was here for one day. That was long enough for us to realise that while you are in Great Ormond Street Hospital or University College Hospital, you are getting an excellent education. One of the reasons for that is because you are so keen to learn. We especially enjoyed meeting some of you and watching you work. There are a lot of other things that we liked. Here are a few.

* We could see that you enjoy your lessons and do very well.* There are many different people working in the school and they are all doing their best to look after you and help you learn.* You are made to do as much as you can for yourselves. This is helping you to become independent.* Teachers help you to return quickly to your normal school after your treatment. One of the things that I felt would make the school better is if there was a bit more room for you to work in the classroom at Great Ormond Street.