

Shapla Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100935
Local Authority	Tower Hamlets
Inspection number	276423
Inspection dates	14–15 June 2006
Reporting inspector	Peter Sudworth

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	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr Minaz Uddin Ms Jane Wallace
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Wellclose Square London E1 8HY
Telephone number	020 7480 5829
Fax number	020 7480 6332

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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

All the pupils at this one-form entry school speak English as an additional language and almost all are of Bangladeshi heritage. Ninety-five pupils are at an early stage of learning English. Sixty-five per cent have free school meals. Pupils' attainment is much lower than expected when they begin school. An above average number of pupils have learning difficulties. The proportion of pupils joining or leaving the school at other than the usual times is higher than typically found.

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

There are no major issues for improvement, but the school should continue to improve by implementing the priorities in its development plan.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

High quality teaching brings about outstanding levels of achievement. Teachers' good use of assessment ensures that they never underestimate what the pupils can do. Good quality marking helps pupils to improve their work. Teachers plan well for pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities. Imaginative lessons excite pupils' interests, while making rigorous demands on their thinking. In literature, for example, one class has looked at some of Shakespeare's work and at Pericles in particular. Wherever they can, teachers make cross-references between different subjects, so the pupils learn to apply their skills in new contexts.

Many lessons strike an excellent balance between tasks tightly prescribed by the teacher and challenges to the pupils to make decisions for themselves. Through this they grow in confidence and independence. Home language support is on hand for pupils who are new to English, and the most able pupils are provided with additional challenges. Teachers' questioning of pupils is excellent because it calls on them to give detailed, argued responses, and to experience more complex forms of English. The skills pupils acquire in speech underpin their achievements across the curriculum.

Teachers expect pupils to give of their best in effort and behaviour. Pupils' work is consistently neat and careful, and much of it is in skilfully-crafted books they have made themselves. Learning at Shapla is exciting and rewarding.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is outstanding with a very good range of extra-curricular activities. The imaginative use of visits and active learning, combined with a very good emphasis on language and mathematics secures the pupils' understanding effectively. For example, Year 4 pupils had made pomanders which extended their knowledge of Tudor life. Whole school strengths in art and literacy are used extremely well in other subjects to bridge learning. Pupils use computers widely when presenting their work. The Foundation Stage curriculum meets children's needs and statutory requirements extremely well.

The presentation of work, frequently in pupils' own hand-made books, is outstanding. One pupil stated 'We like to share our books with others so we have an audience for our work'. Excellent links with members of an international law firm widen individual pupils' experiences and enhance their all-round development and maturity. The excellent provision for pupils who speak English as an additional language promotes very effective learning. The well structured curriculum for personal, social and health education contributes to the pupils' outstanding personal development. Very good provision for pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities supports their very good progress.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

This is outstanding. High quality, caring relationships throughout the school ensure that pupils are very well looked after and encouraged. A careful watch is kept on pupils; they are all well known to staff. Staff are familiar with child protection procedures. Respectful relationships between staff and pupils give pupils the confidence to talk freely to adults and to feel secure in school. Very good links with external agencies support pupils who have learning or other problems. The school's learning mentor successfully supports pupils who experience social and emotional difficulties so that any effects on learning are minimised.

Health and safety procedures and risk assessments are very good. Pupils are taught how to be healthy and stay safe. Very good arrangements are made to promote attendance and general welfare, including very good links with parents, and these have been highly successful. Very good tracking of pupils' progress ensures that any concerns are noted quickly. Records are used well to plan lessons and meet pupils' needs.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Pupils

Thank you for your welcome when we came to visit you and for talking to us about your work. You clearly enjoy school and like your teachers. We think that your school is an outstanding one because of the excellent progress that you make. This is because of the staff who look after you so well and teach you so many exciting things. We think that you behave well and have a very good approach to your studies. You have got lots of friends to play with and you do so happily together.

We were very impressed with your work and progress. In particular we think that your poetry and art work are of an exceptional quality. We enjoyed reading your poems in the books that have been published. Your artwork is very skilfully undertaken. We also noticed the very careful way in which you mount your work in the books that you make. You are right to be very proud of them.

The school has made very good progress since the last inspection. We noticed how much better you are when working on the computers. We feel that your school will continue to provide you with interesting work to do in the future. We wish you all well in the future. We hope that you will carry on working hard and achieve much success in later life.

Peter Sudworth

Lead Inspector