
HM Inspectors of Schools

Follow-up to the Inspection of

Ancrum Road Primary School

Dundee City Council

Main points for action

1. *The education authority should review the health and safety issues identified in report.*

Generally good progress had been made in implementing this recommendation.

A number of steps had been taken to restrict pupils' access to the main road when leaving the school grounds. These measures had produced a significant reduction in the number of pupils using a largely unprotected and unmanned gate facing the main road. Closing this gate at the end of the school day would further reduce these numbers. Restrictions on vehicular access to the school playground were clearly displayed at the appropriate entrance. Planned improvements to ventilation in the dining area and the boys' toilets were due to be completed before the end of the current session.

2. *To improve attainment in writing the school should review its programme and include more opportunities for creative and extended writing at the upper stages.*

The school had made very good progress towards meeting this recommendation.

Staff had reviewed the policy and the programme for writing. They had benefited from worthwhile staff development activities and were making effective use of new resources. Staff and older pupils had worked with a local author to promote and develop writing. At the upper stages pupils had produced a variety of extended pieces of imaginative writing. They displayed a high level of confidence and enthusiasm in class and group discussions on writing. Staff had introduced a system for tracking pupils' attainment to help identify where support for writing should be targeted most effectively. Initial indications showed an overall improvement in attainment in writing across the school.

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3. *To improve attainment in aspects of mathematics the school should pay more consistent attention to information handling at all stages, and, in particular, develop the use of computers to create spreadsheets and databases.*

The school had made very good progress towards meeting this recommendation.

Within the education authority's provision of support on information and communications technology (ICT), staff were undertaking in-service training with a particular focus on information handling. The school had purchased additional resources and was in the process of establishing a computer suite. The mathematics programme throughout the school now included an appropriate emphasis on information handling. Plans were regularly monitored to identify where skills in handling data could be developed in other areas of the curriculum. At all stages there was evidence of improved attainment in pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills in using spreadsheets and databases.

4. *The school should review procedures for using National Tests in writing to ensure better consistency in their use, and allow pupils to take tests in English language and mathematics when they are ready.*

The school had made very good progress towards meeting this recommendation.

The school had reviewed its procedures in the use of National Tests. Staff had been given useful advice to help them mark the tests, and they now worked in teams to ensure they were consistent in their marking. Arrangements were in place for pupils to take National Tests when they were ready for them, and to confirm teachers' judgements of their progress.

No further visits will be made to the school by HM Inspectors of Schools in connection with the inspection report of September 1998.