

HMIe SCHOOL INSPECTION

**FOLLOW THROUGH REPORT
AUGUST 2009**

ST COMBS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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1. The School

St Combs Primary School serves the village of St Combs and the surrounding area. The school has a roll of 72 pupils. There have been two staffing changes since the original inspection.

2. Key Strengths

The following key strengths have been identified:

- An outstanding climate and relationships within the school
- Very well behaved and polite pupils
- Teamwork from committed staff
- Positive partnerships with the local community

3. Examples of good practice

Ideal Village project

Partnership work with Parent Council and wider community

4. How well do children learn and achieve?

Children enjoy learning and respond very positively to teachers and support staff. They can work independently either on their own or in groups. Attainment in mathematics continues to be very good and attainment in reading and writing has increased. Overall children are achieving well in these subjects and most have a better idea of what they need to do to improve. Staff have provided pupils across stages with appropriate opportunities to learn through play with numeracy and literacy games used with more purpose and focus.

ICT is used more frequently, particularly in mathematics. This is helping to develop independent learning and increased confidence as well as problem solving skills. Across the school children are benefiting from taking part in stimulating learning activities. They regularly learn through “active play” sessions.

Teachers are beginning to make links between other curriculum areas in a planned manner. At P6/7 pupils have just completed “An Ideal Village” project which involved parents and the wider community. In P5 the pupils were costing outfits for different occasions. All children take part and organise enterprise project which help them to learn about the world of work. Pupils are developing citizenship skills and a sense of responsibility by serving on various school committees. These duties enable children to make a real impact on the school ethos and environment.

5. How well do staff work with others to support children’s learning?

Teamwork within the school is very strong. The school and the wider community, including parents, have developed very positive partnerships. The Parent Council is very supportive of the school. They surveyed parents’

views about the school and this resulted in parental planning sheets being developed. The school had very good relationships with partner agencies and other council services to provide additional support for pupils. The wider community help with various educational visits and are members of the Eco and Health Promoting committees. All pupils were involved with a very successful Activity and Health week.

6. Are staff and children actively involved in improving their school community?

Staff are very committed to improving the school: they work very well together to improve childrens' learning experiences. The Pupil Council, Eco and Health Promoting committee give children leadership opportunities as well as a say in improving the learning environment. Staff makes good use of national quality indicators to identify areas for improvement across all stages within the school. A quality assurance calendar has been set up with the head teacher observing the quality of learning and teaching. The head teacher monitors teachers' plans and samples pupils work and gives high quality regular feedback.

7. Does the school have high expectations of all children?

Staff set very high expectations for all learners. Relationships throughout the school were excellent. Pupils were open, courteous and very well behaved. The school very effectively recognises the achievements of pupils, including those which happen out of school. Staff feel valued and in turn they value the pupils. Praise is used very well across all stages. Regular assemblies celebrate children's successes. Pupil's work is valued and displayed well.

8. Does the school have a clear sense of direction?

The head teacher is very well respected and takes a very positive leadership role within the school. All staff work very well together and take on additional responsibilities in order to improve the learning environment. Staff have a strong commitment to the welfare of their pupils. The head teacher monitors the work of the school closely. Pupils are given good opportunities to show responsibility and leadership. Overall, St Combs Primary School shows a strong capacity to continue to improve.