

Inspection of Delves Lane Primary School

Delves Lane, Consett, County Durham DH8 7ES

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 March 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Early years provision	Requires improvement
Previous inspection grade	Good

What is it like to attend this school?

Delves Lane Primary School is a happy place where relationships between pupils and teachers are respectful. Pupils enjoy and are excited by their learning. Pupils are proud of their achievements. All staff have high expectations of what pupils will achieve. Adults are committed to giving pupils the best opportunities they can. As a result, pupils are well supported. Staff are proud to be part of the Delves Lane family.

Behaviour is good. If any bullying does occur, pupils know that staff will resolve it quickly. Leaders recognise the importance of providing opportunities for safe outdoor play, due to the location of the school. Pupils enjoy the range of activities available to them at playtime. They enjoy coming to Delves Lane School. They are safe and well cared for.

Leaders have reviewed the curriculum to ensure that it is well planned and sequenced. This ensures that pupils are ready for the next step in their education by the time that they leave. Pupils have a rich understanding of the topics they have learned. Leaders have prioritised reading and phonics. Pupils say that they love the wide range of reading activities in school.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

The curriculum in subjects such as reading, mathematics, science and history is well-sequenced. In these subjects, leaders have provided teachers with high-quality training. Staff are supported by skilled subject leaders. Support from local English and mathematics hubs has resulted in improved staff knowledge and skills. As a result, pupils are well supported to learn the curriculum in these subjects.

The mathematics curriculum is taught effectively and pupils are appropriately challenged. The curriculum is designed to support pupils to know and remember key facts. Carefully selected resources support pupils to be independent. In other subjects, such as in art and design technology, the curriculum is very new. Leaders have not yet monitored the impact of the curriculum on pupils' learning. They do not know whether the changes are helping pupils to know more over time.

Teachers deliver leaders' chosen phonics programme with consistency. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are quickly identified and given the help they need to catch up. Personalised support is used very effectively to ensure these pupils are included and have their diverse needs met. Leaders have accessed funding from the National Tutoring Programme to provide pupils with high-quality reading support. Leaders have invested in a diverse range of quality reading books. Pupils say that they enjoy reading the books that are available to them. They say that they love the 'drop everything and read' approach that leaders

use to get them reading. Pupils welcome the time they get to relax and read together. Newspapers and comics are available alongside a range of exciting books.

Behaviour across school is positive and supports learning. Classrooms are calm, quiet and purposeful. Pupils are encouraged to do well. Staff work together as a caring team and have high expectations of behaviour. Leaders are aware that the attendance of all pupils is not yet good enough. They have sought external support to help them to improve pupils' attendance. Leaders agree this is a continued priority, so that no child falls behind.

Leaders have prioritised the development of the early years. A new curriculum is beginning to be implemented. The classroom environment has recently been improved. Leaders provide engaging learning opportunities for children. However, not all staff challenge children's thinking as they play and learn. Some adults miss opportunities to correct misunderstandings and extend children's vocabulary. This is particularly the case in phonics and when children write. Subject leaders in school do not fully understand the role the early years plays in pupils' curriculum journey. However, provision in the nursery is much stronger. Two year olds are also nurtured and extremely well supported.

The school curriculum ensures pupils have a range of opportunities to understand the world around them. Pupils learn about a wide range of cultures and religions. Classroom texts are carefully chosen to support pupils to develop an understanding of diversity. These well-planned opportunities in the curriculum result in pupils showing a deep respect and understanding of other beliefs and cultures. Roles and responsibilities are important to pupils. They take their responsibilities seriously.

Governors are committed. They know and understand the school well. They are keen to support leaders in their drive for continued improvement. Leaders provide governors with the information they need to challenge them on their actions. Leaders have created a highly positive culture among the whole staff team. Staff say that the Delves Lane family works well together.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Adults work effectively to keep pupils safe. Staff have received safeguarding training and accurately identify pupils who may be at risk. Safeguarding records and checks are thorough and detailed.

Leaders are tenacious. They work with outside agencies to ensure pupils get the help they need. Leaders work closely with families to keep pupils happy and safe. Leaders recognise the impact COVID-19 has had on pupils' well-being. The caring school team works to support those pupils who need it.

Pupils know and understand how to keep themselves safe online. They know to tell an adult if they are worried.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- In subjects such as art and design technology, leaders have completed a review of the curriculum. However, subject leaders have not monitored the impact of these changes. As a result, leaders are not clear on how the curriculum is helping pupils to know more. Leaders should ensure that subject leaders rigorously monitor the curriculum changes they have made so that the impact on pupils' learning is known.
- Adults in the early years do not consistently promote and model the language and skills that children need to develop. As a result, opportunities to challenge children's thinking in the early years are missed. Leaders need to ensure that all adults in the early years promote children's phonics, language and writing as they learn through play.
- Even within the context of the pandemic, rates of absenteeism remain too high. Too many pupils are missing too much of the curriculum and this is leading to gaps in their knowledge. Leaders should identify pupils at risk of being persistently absent as early as possible and work closely with parents and outside agencies to overcome barriers to pupils' attendance.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

If you are the school and you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	114047
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10211090
Type of school	Primary
School category	Community
Age range of pupils	2 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	325
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Andrea McGuigan
Headteacher	Rebecca Woods
Website	www.delveslaneprimary.durham.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	13 – 14 December 2016, under section 5 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- This school is part of Durham local authority.
- The school offers provision for two-year-olds.
- The school does not use alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with school leaders and have taken this into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors met with the headteacher, the deputy headteacher, the special educational needs coordinator, the early years leader and the subject leaders for English, mathematics, science, history, design technology and art. An inspector also met the curriculum leader.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives into reading, mathematics, science and history. These deep dives included discussions with senior leaders and subject leaders,

lesson visits, review of pupils' books, meeting with pupils and discussion with teachers whose lessons inspectors had visited. An inspector also listened to a selection of pupils read to an adult.

- Inspectors considered a range of safeguarding information and documentation provided by the school and available on the school's website. Inspectors met with staff to consider their understanding of the school's safeguarding procedures. An inspector met with the designated safeguarding leader.
- Inspectors met with three governors, including the chair and vice chair of the governing body. Inspectors considered samples of governing body minutes and other related evidence.
- An inspector met with the local authority representative.
- Inspectors considered Ofsted Parent View responses and met with parents and carers at the start of the school day.
- Inspectors considered responses through the staff and pupil questionnaires.
- All inspectors talked to pupils throughout the inspection to consider their views.

Inspection team

Kate Byrne, lead inspector	Ofsted Inspector
David Hodgkiss	Ofsted Inspector
Mark Nugent	Ofsted Inspector

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