

## RECENT OFSTED REFERENCES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY CURRICULUM

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*“The school’s curriculum has many fine features and offers pupils numerous opportunities to learn in a variety of settings and ways. There is a great sense of fun, with pupils characteristically fully engaged and active. Teachers challenge pupils to think and to extend their understanding through very skillful questioning. Learning is very active with pupils regularly engaged in talking with their peers and sharing their ideas. The curriculum has notable strengths....The school's international curriculum is a firm base for cross-curricular, thematic work, which impressively develops pupils' basic skills, as well as broadening their cultural awareness.”*

Ofsted Inspection Report: Outstanding, February 2011, Pott Shrigley Church School, Cheshire East

*“Pupils very obviously enjoy the learning opportunities provided by this good curriculum that strongly emphasises first-hand experiences.....A prominent feature of every lesson seen during the inspection was pupils' obvious love of learning. They talk excitedly about their work and they are highly motivated. The strong emphasis teachers place on learning through practical activity and first-hand experience makes learning exciting for pupils. One reason for the excellent behaviour is the fact that pupils get so involved in their work....The curriculum is innovative and creative and follows a programme that is well established internationally. This has contributed to the school receiving the first level of the International School award. It reflects the school's objective of developing pupils' understanding of their place in the global community. This permeates much of the life of the school, from classes having the names of cities round the world, to very specific learning activities. One example of the latter is the older pupils' correspondence with pupils in a Malaysia school. Topics excite the pupils and teachers work in small teams to plan the very stimulating learning activities. They maximise opportunities for pupils to apply their learning in literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT). Superb displays in classrooms and around the school support and celebrate pupils' learning.”*

Ofsted Inspection Report: February 2011, Oakhurst Community Primary School, Swindon

*"The exciting curriculum stimulates pupils' imagination and creativity.... the project-based curriculum teachers provide pupils with good opportunities and interesting contexts in which to learn and practise their literacy and number skills. As a result pupils' attainment is generally above average. The pupils show very good attitudes to learning and enjoy their lessons....The curriculum is well-organised and brings together a broad range of opportunities and experiences for pupils. The Year 4*

*Victorian day and the Year 6 travel agency project, for example, give pupils first-hand experience of an area of learning and develop the skills they will need to become successful citizens. The curriculum has strong links to literacy and numeracy so that pupils can develop these skills, as was seen, for example, when Year 6 pupils responded in writing to an imaginary letter from the Managing Director of Alton Towers requesting that they conduct a scientific investigation to design a new roller coaster."*  
Ofsted Inspection Report: October 2010, Green Dragon Primary School, Hounslow

*"An exciting new curriculum engages pupils very well and developments since the last inspection have resulted in the improvement of this aspect of provision from satisfactory to outstanding"*  
Ofsted Inspection Report: June 2010, Stourfield Junior School, Bournemouth, June 2010

*"The quality of teaching has been improved and an exciting and challenging curriculum introduced. These now enthuse and motivate pupils well. Pupils' achievement is now good and attainment is above average. Pockets of inadequate progress have been completely eradicated due to effective teaching and a curriculum which enhances learning. The new curriculum greatly enhances pupils' cultural awareness especially that of different countries, although the full impact of this has yet to be seen. Since January an exciting curriculum has been in place which makes learning relevant and very interesting. Although the full impact of this is not yet apparent it has already been spectacularly successful in priority areas. For example, the new writing programme which includes excellent assessment procedures has brought about very good progress in writing. There is a strong focus on providing learning activities which interest and support different groups, such as boys, ensuring they are motivated to achieve as well as other pupils."*  
Ofsted Inspection Report: Good. Longfleet Church of England School, Poole, June 2010

*"The school is a hive of industry. The walls are awash with fantastic displays of pupils' work showing the richness of the excellent curriculum. This reflects the staff's enormous efforts to extend the horizons of the pupils. Inspirational teaching enthuses pupils and enables them to overcome many barriers to their learning. The focus on 'cooperative learning' leads to many opportunities for discussion and collaborative work. As a result, pupils make excellent progress from a very low starting point with limited language skills in both their mother tongue and English. Attainment has been rising year on year.  
The curriculum is a masterpiece of planning that ensures a balance between academic, creative and physical development. It is particularly effective in meeting the needs of all pupils especially those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Imaginative ideas are enhancing the already strong provision of themed weeks and special events. For example, pupils arrived to find their classroom in chaos and windows covered with sticky tape as an introduction to a theme on natural disasters. Obviously, pupils' interest was immediately captured."*  
Ofsted Inspection Report: Outstanding. Burnley Brow Community School, Oldham  
January 2010

*“The school instills in its pupils a sense of purpose, self-belief and above all, a joy of learning; as one pupil said, 'This is an amazing school that is incredibly inclusive because all my teachers are helpful and very kind.'*

*Since the last inspection, it has built on its strengths and developed new ones, including improving its international curriculum and the planning and building of a new resource unit, so that the school can be as inclusive to pupils from all backgrounds as possible. It is driving up pupils' academic performance and sustaining outstanding practice in supporting their personal development.*

*The well-orchestrated international curriculum meets the needs and interests of all learners exceptionally well. A wide range of trips and residential visits provide excellent opportunities for pupils to broaden their personal and academic skills.”*

Ofsted Inspection Report: Outstanding. Kentish Town Church of England Primary School, Camden, London January 2010

*“Pupils love coming to school. The outstanding and innovative curriculum provides a wide menu of exciting, stimulating and inspiring activities. Pupils can not wait to get into lessons to see ‘what I am going to learn next’. As a result, pupils make excellent progress and achieve well, overcoming the barriers to learning many of them have. Decisions made about what is taught through the curriculum are brave and innovative. They are justified by the positive results in terms of pupils’ rapidly increasing progress and rising attainment. Links with other schools broaden pupils understanding of others different from themselves.”*

Ofsted Inspection Report: Outstanding. Dee Point Primary School, Chester October 2009

*“The quality of the curriculum is outstanding. It is broad, balanced and designed effectively so that it meets the needs of learners in the twenty first century. The school has recently introduced the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) and, as a result of careful planning, it successfully complements the National Curriculum.*

*Emphasis is placed on the development of knowledge and skills through well planned themes that combine learning in different subjects and have an international dimension. The themes are relevant to pupils’ interests and experience.*

*Consequently, they capture pupils’ enthusiasm and have a positive impact on their progress in all of the subjects involved, including English, mathematics and ICT.*

*While pupils are broadening their understanding of the world beyond their immediate community, they make very good progress in developing such skills as researching current issues, planning real projects related to these issues and presenting information in a variety of ways. For aspects of the National Curriculum that cannot easily be included within a theme, teachers provide effective stand-alone programmes.*

*The curriculum is enriched by a vast range of extra-curricular activities which cater for pupils’ interests and talents, and promotes their physical, emotional and social development. Educational visits are used very effectively to consolidate learning and to introduce pupils to new experiences. Visitors are invited to share their specialist knowledge and personal experiences, and this brings the curriculum to life for the pupils.”*

Ofsted Inspection Report: Outstanding. St Patrick’s school, Rheindahlen, Germany. April 2009

***“To enhance an already outstanding curriculum, the school has recently introduced the International Primary Curriculum and this is providing richly integrated topics such as 'Trip to Mars'. These topics are highly enjoyable and let pupils use skills and knowledge from different areas, in tasks that show them how their learning is relevant to their lives.”***

Ofsted Inspection Report: Outstanding. Hampstead Norreys Church of England Primary School March 2009

***“The carefully planned curriculum contributes strongly to pupils' learning. The school ensures that learning is meaningful and fun because it carefully and imaginatively plans themes with strong links between subjects. Through its International Primary Curriculum, the school has successfully motivated and enthused pupils, especially the boys, and has done much to increase their confidence as learners.”***

Ofsted Inspection Report: Outstanding. Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School, Bilston, Wolverhampton, March 2009

***“The school's adoption of the International Primary Curriculum has had a very positive impact, making pupils enthusiastic about learning and giving them a global perspective. For example, pupils have been finding out 'how we can stop the world tearing apart our rainforests'. They have plenty of opportunities to practice their literacy and numeracy skills across a range of subjects, and use information and communication technology very effectively. A group of pupils, in collaboration with another school, produced an animated film on the theme of 'different yet the same', which excited and enthused all those who made it and those who watched it. The curriculum contributes considerably to pupils' excellent personal development and their great enjoyment of school.”***

St. Anne's Catholic Primary School, Tower Hamlets, London, February 2009

***“Science, music, ICT and physical education are delivered effectively over a two-year cycle. Other foundation subjects are delivered through an innovative thematic approach in both key stages, inspired by units of work produced for the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). Within this framework, teachers' preparation is thorough, creative and responsive to pupils' needs and personal interests. Lessons are very effective in engaging pupils' interests and in developing creative, collaborative and independent working. The provision of interesting artefacts, as well as visually stimulating materials enhance the curriculum significantly and are an outstanding features throughout the school. Older pupils have frequent opportunities to use the internet to research their ideas.”***

Estyn Report. Albert Primary School, Penarth, South Wales. February 2009

***“The International Primary Curriculum has been introduced to combine many foundation subjects, relating learning to real life situations and introducing an***

*international dimension. This has been an important factor in developing pupils' interest and desire to learn as well as promoting personal development. This desire is successfully fostered outside the classroom through the vast number of clubs and activities available after school, attended by nearly every child."*

Ofsted Inspection Report: Outstanding. Ludgvan Primary School, January 2009

*A strong feature of pupils' good achievement and enjoyment of their work is the outstanding curriculum. The school chose to use the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) to motivate and inspire pupils, and it certainly does this. The planning of topics is monitored carefully, and all statutory National Curriculum requirements are met. Literacy is developed through the IPC, mathematics is taught as a discrete subject, and information and communication technology is used extensively throughout the school, preparing pupils well for their future economic well-being. The curriculum provides opportunities for all pupils, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, to progress and develop well. There is a good range and variety of visits and visitors who effectively contribute to bringing the curriculum alive.....Excellent curriculum provision enthuses and motivates pupils. They thoroughly enjoy the International Primary' Curriculum's (IPC) thematic approach and particularly relish opportunities for investigative work and research. The curriculum is well matched to pupils' needs and enables pupils of all abilities to make excellent progress. Literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology skills are effectively integrated into learning."*

Ofsted Inspection Report: Outstanding. St. Aloysius Catholic Primary School, July 2008 (IPC was introduced in December 2007)

*"The exciting, relevant and innovative curriculum ensures that pupils use and extend the basic skills acquired in the mornings to the International Primary Curriculum in the afternoons. The school fully meets the requirements of the National Curriculum while extending and deepening pupils' knowledge of their own and other cultures. In the 2007 national tests, standards in writing were above average. By the end of Year 6, standards are above average in English and mathematics. Standards in science are high. In all subjects, more pupils than average attain the higher levels. In 2007, over half achieved the higher Level 5 in mathematics, while three quarters of the pupils reached Level 5 for science, significantly above average. This equates to high achievement, and is a tribute to pupils' excellent attitudes to work, their teachers' skills and the very effective curriculum. Pupils excel in all other subjects, including information and communication technology (ICT)."*

Ofsted Inspection: Outstanding Report: Sir William Burrough School, Tower Hamlets, London. March 2008 (IPC was introduced to Sir William Burrough in 2006)

*"The excellent curriculum is key to the school's success in promoting good achievement and outstanding personal development. The recently introduced International Primary Curriculum has improved what was already good provision. It involves the pupils very well in planning what they need to learn and offers them interesting and exciting things to do. Links between subjects are very good and there*

***are excellent opportunities for the pupils to practise their numeracy and literacy skills in other lessons. Outstanding.”***

Ofsted Inspection Report: Ryders Hayes Community School, November 2007 (IPC was introduced to Ryders Hayes in September 2006)

***“Activities are very well planned, creative, enticing and relevant to pupils' needs. The curriculum is constantly being reviewed to ensure it continues to engage pupils in their learning and supports their high achievements. There is a focus on learning skills and linking subjects to ensure that pupils learn in meaningful and exciting ways. This was seen in a Year 2 class where pupils were finding out about things in the past as part of their project on Time Detectives. The curriculum is effectively adapted to meet the needs of more able pupils and those pupils requiring additional support for their learning. As a result, all pupils are well engaged in their learning and are achieving as well as they are able.”***

Ofsted Inspection Report: St. Andrews (Barnsbury) Primary School, Islington, June 2008 (IPC was introduced to St. Andrews in September 2007)

***“Pupils involved in the creative curriculum are developing good skills to enable them to work independently and take responsibility....The good teaching engages pupils' interests through lively and stimulating activities such as making the ‘special’ environment of a rainforest which enthralled Year 4 pupils.....Recent curriculum innovations are making the curriculum livelier and more exciting. The organisation of themed days and visits out of school and the introduction of more school activities have enriched the curriculum. These developments are beginning to have a positive effect on pupil’s achievement.”***

Ofsted Inspection Report: Forest Lodge Primary School, Leicester. January 2007. (IPC was introduced to Forest Lodge Primary in September 2006 to help take the school out of special measures.)

***“The curriculum is outstanding and covers a very wide range of learning activities and experiences. It is planned in great detail, based on the International Primary Curriculum, to meet the pupil’s needs and offers them many opportunities to make choices and decisions with confidence and flexibility. The school has successfully provided a curriculum based on building on pupils’ skills and interests across different subjects.”***

Ofsted Inspection Report: Holmesdale Community Infant School, Surrey. July 2007 (IPC was introduced to Holmesdale Infant School in September 2006)