



Children's Services

International New Arrivals, Travellers and Supplementary Schools

Peacock Centre
Peacock Close
Gorton
Manchester
M18 8AX

Manchester Supplementary School Monitoring Visit

The Monitoring visit (for this report) was carried out by:

Sudip Chatterjee, Education Development Officer

Name of School: - Manchester Chinese Centre Supplementary School

Web Page: www.mchinesecentre.org.uk

Date of monitoring visit: - 26/03/2011

Date of report: - 26/04/2011

Name of Head teacher: - Jenny Wong

Address of School:- 67 Ardwick Green North, Ardwick, Manchester, M12 6FX

Main Community served: - Chinese

The school meets at the above address. This is community building which has been tailored for classroom use. The building is regularly inspected by external contractors for Fire Safety and Security. Reports are available from the Head teacher. As such, the premises meet the Health and Safety requirements. However, there is no provision for disabled access due to the high cost of complying with DDA regulations. The Supplementary School caters for from 3½ Years up to 16 years of age Staff trained in Early Years Provision are responsible for the reception classes and are supported by assistants. The head teacher regularly oversees preparation, class attendance lists, work set, progress marks of pupils in different curriculum areas and homework set. Also, homework sheets are sent home and the Head teacher responds to the comments from parents. The school has appointed a Curriculum coordinator to develop and monitor teaching standards in the classes. In addition to the Supplementary School, the centre runs several other diverse activities ranging from the regular Material Arts classes to Adult ESOL, accredited Interpreters' Courses to delivering Chinese Art and Origami workshops to Mainstream schools (see centre report for a fuller list of all activities).

Number of pupils on roll as attending the Supplementary School: - 149 (ages 3.½ to 18 years). This includes GCSE, AS and A2 classes in Chinese.

Pupil Achievements

Pupils have a merit scheme which rewards good work and good academic achievement. The pupil's work is regularly marked by teachers and inspected by the Curriculum Coordinator as well as the Headteacher. The pupils' achieve excellent results at GCSE and AS&A2 exams. The School is an Examination Centre for EDEXCEL.

Attendance

At the time of the monitoring visit there were 60 children and 2 adult learners attending the Saturday morning session. Average attendance varies between 90% and 98%. Attendance records are kept with the reception as well as each class teacher.

Management

It is a well-managed establishment and the Head runs a very dynamic and progressive environment for all the pupils. She has successfully built sustainable relations with the wider community and other agencies. All the teachers are CRB checked and the school keeps a record of this for each volunteer.

Teaching and Learning

Day-to-day planning is in accordance with a syllabus that is agreed by the teachers and the Head. She is keen to apply and promote the "Pinyin" method in conjunction with word-processing on the computer. Assessment tests are used to help to assess pupils' progress and parents are informed through any issues and also good progress. Parents are encouraged to write comments on progress reports that are sent home once a year. There are internal certificates for pupils in order to celebrate progress in internal examination twice a year at the school.

All staff attend regular training sessions on a variety of topics.

During the visit, five classes were observed with a total of 33 pupils in attendance. All lessons had a planned structure and involved assistants appropriately. All the children were on task at all times and the activities were varied to retain and sustain motivation. Two out of the five lessons observed had a formal delivery structure and majority pupils seemed to respond well to this.

Assessment records and pupil tracking in order to plan timely intervention is being developed.

Parental Evaluation

Parents are encouraged to contribute to the running of the school through their general comments to the head teacher and their comments on their children's reports. Parents are also very active in the day to day running of the school.

During the visit, 3 parents were interviewed. Parents are generally satisfied with the leadership of the Centre and curriculum provisions for their children. The space constraints were a concern for all parents. The demand for places is constantly increasing but resources are limited. Parents were happy with the efforts by the schools staff to vary the activities in order to motivate better engagement by pupils. Two of the parents expressed a need to see a more consistent approach to teaching methods and there was a need to continue with further training for all staff. All parents were happy that their views are taken into account and that the leadership of the centre will respond appropriately.

Staff Evaluation

All the staff interviewed were satisfied with the support from the leadership and felt that they had a positive influence on the running of the school. They were keen to support the external events and engagement with the wider community. There was great enthusiasm and commitment towards the upcoming 'Poetry Festival' at the Museum. The general attitude of all the volunteers was very supportive and had a high degree of commitment to the communal ethos and the diverse provision within the Centre. They were also keen to attend further training to be better knowledgeable about the Mainstream teaching methods.

Links with mainstream schools

The Centre provides workshops for mainstream schools and has good links with many independent schools in the Greater Manchester area. At the time of the visit 4 students from the Manchester Grammar School were supporting the IT lessons in a voluntary capacity.

Headteacher's Statement

Aims of the School:

To promote Chinese language and maintain Chinese traditions
To build a bridge between Britain and China
To improve the life style of lower income families through education
To strive for academic excellence
To encourage self-discipline and a high standard of behaviour
To provide a happy and stimulating environment for studying to encourage the joy of learning

The main characteristics of the school and what makes it different to other schools:

Our school teaches Chinese Pinyin, language, culture study and Chinese IT. There are 6/7 Chinese schools in Manchester; but we specialise in Chinese IT and family learning.

Chinese children are learning Chinese Language and parents are learning ESOL English, British culture and life in UK in the same school. This could help the families' understanding and develop much closer relationship.

Performance Management and evaluating the quality of teaching

The students have high levels of achievement and standards in their work and gain national qualifications as well as learning life and work skills and acquiring knowledge. The following examples of exam results are an indication of the standards that students reach: Year 2008 GCSE Chinese: 95% of students achieved grade A* 5% C
Year 2008 A Level Chinese: 100% pass rate. 16 young people achieved Interpreting Level 1, 2, 3. The current high standards of students' work demonstrates that they are making steady progress toward achieving their learning goals and reaching higher levels of ability than when they first began their respective courses. They therefore stand a strong chance of achieving the relevant qualifications.

The school's educational priorities and targets

Our school has been developing a good curriculum and has trained experienced teachers to combine both the Western and Eastern style of education. We would like to set up a partnership with WEA to enter our teacher for Teacher Training Course. This could qualify our teacher to work in mainstream schools teaching Chinese. Through this service it could bring some income to support our Charity. We are registering our school with Ofsted and developing an English course for overseas Chinese young people. If we got the right support from the council our school would benefit the local community and economy in the long term; it will also help the young people to enter much wider international charity work and job market. Please see 2008 report attached.

The impact of what the school does and Strengths

Our school has very a important impact among the families learning. We are very proud of their parents who set a sample to their children "skill for life". Some of the parents never understood the British culture and education system before; but after the ESOL lessons they have taken more interest in their children's education and home/work. For the children, they are much more keen to display their work and each class has a folder available at our reception for parents and visitors. The administration works are in place accordingly. Parents and children could drop in our school 7 days a week and our staff are always available for them to talk to. We are very happy with our achievements.

The curriculum and evaluation

We value every learner's point of view and to improve our service is our priority. We hand out questionnaires at the end of each term. Each teacher has to fill in class and individual value and outcome forms. We offer lots of Chinese cultural activities to the children outside school hours.

We have appointed a PR teacher Mrs. J Chan to go round class room talk to parents, helping teachers and caring for children. We are very grateful for her achievement. It works very well for our school; although it has cost our school little bit more.

Equal opportunities statement

We have an equal opportunities policy in place. The volunteers who work in our Centre are not only Chinese people. Our Youth Ambassadors are young people from mixed backgrounds. The ESOL teacher is a British white teachers. Local children attend our school as well.

Further Comments

Our Centre is not funded by any organisation or by the city council. We don't have any full time employees to run our Centre. We are a self-funded voluntary group relying totally on volunteers for the administration and day to day running of our Centre. Our aim is to build a bridge between Britain and China, helping the local Chinese community to overcome the language barrier. This could save thousand of pounds from the City Council's interpreting bills in long term.

Our members are from all walks of life and every age group. We are very proud of and cherish our open door policy. Our volunteers share these ethics and support our charity work, disregarding any individual's age or origin. We never put any boundary between races, children or schools. Anyone or any school who wants to join our voluntary body is welcome. Our charity work is open to the wider community and all people from Greater Manchester. We run a very successful Youth Ambassador Project for the young people in Greater Manchester.

Manchester Chinese Centre provides ESOL English for parents and a large part of a volunteers' work involves helping Chinese parents to write letters to their children's schools, sorting out problems with homework, and helping new immigrants over any difficulties they may encounter. We also offer help to the children with their mainstream school work.

In 2007, we provided support, information, and workshops for thirty-two Manchester schools, and we remain committed to this service. Over and above this, in 2008 before the Olympic Games we were sending 5 to 10 teachers out on a daily basis to mainstream schools promoted Chinese culture.

Twice a year we write letters to more than 400 Greater Manchester Local Education Authority schools explaining about our charity work and activities. Most of the schools ask for Chinese workshops. Sadly, there appears to be a huge reluctance to get involved with Chinese Language curriculum and Youth Ambassadors' visit to China. We do appreciate the constraints made by issues of Health and Safety, and especially the financial aspect. Our Youth Ambassador project should be the best things happening for our local youth work; but we have no interest from the local schools or the Childrens services department. We find this quite disappointing.

When I met Mr. David Milliband in January, I discussed this matter with him and suggested the Foreign Office should work with Children's Services, and the Education Department. The importance of International school links cannot be overestimated. We should encourage our children to work with, consider, and be aware of the wider community.

Our Volunteers and Youth Ambassadors are not looking for recognition, but our Centre would like more support from the Manchester City Council; especially the Education Service. Our hard work and achievement should be recognise by the City council. Our Centre could expend more partnership projects to the local authority. Please see 2008 report attached. All our school administration work, attendance records, staff records, course work and financial records are available to view.