

# Woolsery Primary School Profile

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## Woolsery Primary School

Woolsery

Bideford, Devon, EX39 5QS

Telephone: 01237 431307

<http://www.woolsery.devon.sch.uk>

Children's Service Authority:	Devon
Age range:	5-11
Number of pupils:	124
Head teacher:	Mr Matt Cole
Chair of governors:	Miss Joan Gardner

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## What have been our successes this year?

- Results for 2007 in English and Science are above average, and results in both subjects have continued to rise consistently over the past 3 years.
- A new method of tracking and assessing pupil progress has been introduced for pupils from years 1 to 6.
- New staff have been appointed, including an effective new headteacher and the school is well placed to sustain planned improvements.
- The recent provision of staffing for a reading recovery programme for Key Stage 1 pupils is proving to be very effective in raising pupils' standards.
- An acknowledgement by OFSTED of the pupils' positive attitude to school and their learning.
- Woolsery is attracting an increasing number of pupils and this is forecast to continue for the immediate future, thus providing the school with more flexibility in terms of finance and organisation.
- The school provides an increasingly wide range of extra curricular activities.

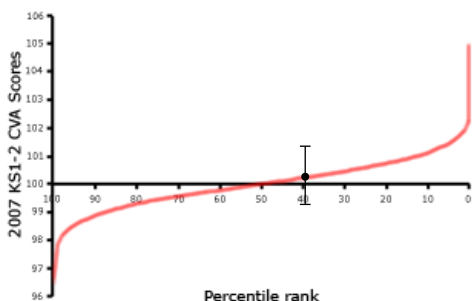
## What are we trying to improve?

Planned improvements are mainly driven by the findings of an Ofsted inspection of November 2007. Current priorities include:

- improving the quality and quantity of assessment procedures across the school, including the pupils' ability to accurately assess their own capabilities;
- improving overall standards, especially in Maths which, although average, are not as good as those in English and Science which are above average;
- improving the Key Stage 1 pupils' reading ability with a concentrated reading recovery programme;
- extending pupils' skills, especially in ICT;
- developing opportunities for Foundation Stage play;
- furthering and consolidating the status and role of the School Council which represents both key stages at the school, and,
- increasing the role of parents in the school through a Parents' Forum and other methods of maintaining communication with these important stakeholders.

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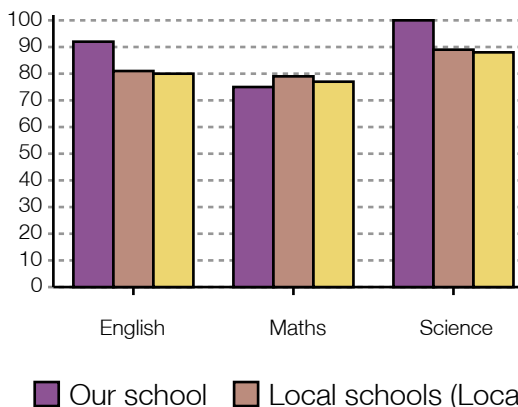
## How much progress do pupils make between age 7 and 11?



- Our school      I Confidence interval

The chart shows our school's contextual value added (CVA) score relative to that of other primary schools. CVA is a statistical means of assessing how effective a school is, by measuring pupils' progress using their test and examination results. The confidence interval shows the range within which we can be confident the score (calculated on the results of only one year group) represents the overall effectiveness of a school. The percentile rank shows the percentage of schools with a score equal to or higher than ours.

## How well do pupils achieve at age 11?



This chart shows the Key Stage 2 results for 2007. It indicates the percentage of pupils eligible for KS2 tests (usually 11 year olds) who achieved or exceeded the expected level (level 4)

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## How have our results changed over time?

- Results have fluctuated over time due to varying numbers of pupils in each year group in our village school. Different year groups often contain a wide range of differing abilities that may include varying numbers of pupils who are on the SEN register for having specific learning problems.
- School has recently adopted a new method of tracking all pupils' progress across all ages. This will now provide more accurate information that will clearly identify individual pupil progress. It therefore enables teachers to make a more realistic and targeted approach to meet the needs of the pupils concerned.
- Overall, despite the fluctuations over recent years, the results are generally in line with, or better than, the national picture.

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## How are we making sure that every child gets teaching to meet their individual needs?

- All pupils are regularly assessed and teachers plan work to meet the needs of every child in the class.
- A well structured Reading Recovery programme is now in place and led by a specialist teaching assistant.
- Teaching assistants are employed for all age groups to support pupil learning and welfare.
- ICT is actively used to support pupils with writing difficulties.
- Homework is regularly set and parental support for this is actively encouraged.
- The curriculum is reviewed annually and is becoming more flexible to provide all pupils with opportunities outside of the National Curriculum. Residential experiences are organised for Key

Stage 2 pupils, theatre groups visit school and groups of pupils are taken out of school in support of the arts, and environmental and physical education. Current curriculum information is always available on the school's website.

- Children have regular planned opportunities to use ICT by using carefully selected software to support their investigative work .

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## **How are we working with parents and the community?**

- School has an open door policy and we actively encourage parents to be involved in every stage of their children's education.
- Parents receive regular information about the progress of their children and are encouraged to contact school concerning any issues which may affect their pupil's learning.
- The school places the village and the community at the heart of the curriculum.
- There is a *Friends of Woolsey School* association which meets regularly, supports school activities and welcomes the involvement of the local community and not just parents. It runs many activities for the school and community, and raises much needed money for the school.
- The school has initiated a weekly newsletter which outlines useful information for parents, celebrates the success of the school and individual pupils, and generally reflects the broad work of the school.
- The local vicar visits school and leads a weekly assembly.
- The school makes effective use of the village community centre by staging some of their musical events, productions and environmental work there, using facilities not available in school.

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## **What have pupils told us about the school, and what have we done as a result?**

- The School Council is well established and is a key way for the pupils' ideas to be aired across the whole school and be seen to be acted upon.

- Examples of the pupils' requests that have resulted in change include: the installation of drinking fountains; the changing of mealtime arrangements and the provision of games and equipment for playtimes.

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Children also take part in an annual questionnaire. This year, the overwhelming majority of children stated that they thought they were making good progress, that teachers expect them to work hard and that they feel safe at school. When asked what aspects of the school they were most pleased with, top answers included the introduction of Forest School, music tuition and ICT - all recent innovations at Woolsery.

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## **How do we make sure our pupils are healthy, safe and well-supported?**

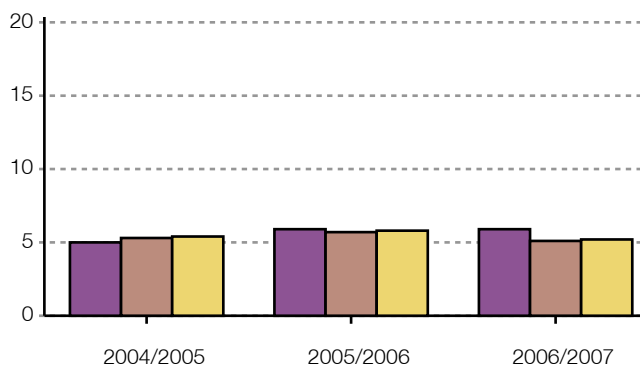
- The school was awarded Healthy Schools status in Summer 2008.
  
- Teaching assistants are employed throughout the school to help support these important aspects.
  
- School now contacts parents on the first day of every pupil absence.
  
- Pupils are targeted for individual progress and programmes are put in place to help them to make the required improvements.
  
- The school buildings and environs have recently been made more secure. A new secure entrance ensures that no visitor enters the school uninvited.
  
- The school provides clear guidance about the kinds of foods and drinks that pupils may bring to school.
  
- Playtimes are fully supervised.
  
- A full programme of swimming is provided.
  
- Regular anti-bullying campaigns are held.
  
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The school has built an adventure playpark.

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## How do our absence rates compare with other schools?



This chart shows the percentage of half days missed through authorised and unauthorised absence by all pupils at the school. Information is given for the school, for schools within the local authority and for all schools.

■ Our school ■ Local schools (Local Authority) ■ All schools

Absence has been an issue at the school over recent years. However, in the 2007 inspection, OFSTED were happy with the way that the school is now implementing a new approach to pupil absence. Parents are now more actively encouraged to support their children's regular attendance. This approach is resulting in a marked improvement in attendance across all age groups.

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## What activities and options are available to pupils?

- Pupils have a broad curriculum during school time and this is regularly reviewed.
- The school supports local opportunities for pupils to participate in a range of sports within, and in addition to, the planned curriculum.
- Many aspects of the rural locality is used effectively to support the curriculum. Recent examples include geography field trips to coasts and farmland, and artwork based on the local beauty spot of Clovelly. School has recently achieved Forest School Status to reflect the schools woodland environment.
- Extra curricular opportunities are also provided for the pupils. These may involve sports, within school and between local schools, music training, educational visits and an annual residential experience for older pupils.

- School hosts musical events for the benefit of our pupils and for pupils from neighbouring schools.

- Private music lessons are available for all pupils to develop their skills using a wide range of instruments.

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## **What do our pupils do after leaving this school?**

- After leaving Woolsery many pupils go to Bideford College. Good feedback from this school is regularly provided.

- Many pupils choose to return to Woolsery for village based community events and many also opt to undertake work experience in Woolsery School whilst in Year 10.

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## **What have we done in response to Ofsted?**

- The school's last OFSTED inspection was in November 2007. In the light of their report the School Improvement Plan has been adjusted to accommodate the key findings. OFSTED recognised that with new leadership the school is moving through a planned period of positive change.

- Other minor issues will be accommodated in the next year's School Improvement Plan.

- Current priorities focus on improving learning experiences and improving teacher performance in order to further raise standards.

## More Information

If you would like more information about school policies, including our policies on special educational needs and disability, admissions, finance, school food and our complaints procedure, please contact us:

By telephone 01237 431307

Our website <http://www.woolsery.devon.sch.uk>

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