

SUMMARY OF THE INSPECTION REPORT

Bedgrove County First School Aylesbury

Headteacher: Mrs B Capstick

Date of inspection: 21 - 24 September 1998

Previous inspection: 19 - 22 June 1995

The school was inspected by six inspectors, led by Mrs Shirley French. This document summarises the full inspection report, which is available from the school.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Number of full-time pupils:	392 and 55 full-time equivalent in the nursery
Pupils with English as an additional language:	1 per cent
Pupils entitled to free school meals:	0.5 per cent
Pupils on register of special educational needs:	3
Average class size:	27.5

Pupils' achievements are above average when they start school.

WHAT THE SCHOOL DOES WELL

- Attainment is very high in English and mathematics and high in most other subjects.
- The new headteacher, supported by staff and governors, is giving very good leadership.
- The teaching is good and based on very good planning, assessment and teamwork.
- Pupils have excellent attitudes to learning and behave very well.
- The excellent ethos is based on very good relationships.
- The partnership with parents and the local community is very strong.
- Excellent opportunities are provided for out-of-school activities.

WHERE THE SCHOOL HAS WEAKNESSES

- Management responsibilities for senior staff have not been sufficiently developed.
- Governors are not fully involved in checking the success of curriculum developments.
- Class assemblies linked with religious education are not given sufficient time.
- Higher attainers are not always fully challenged by their tasks.
- Resources are sufficient for curriculum coverage but not to extend it.

The many strengths of the school far outweigh the weaknesses. The successful impact of the school's strengths on the attainment and quality of education means that the weaknesses identified are minor points for improvement for the governors and staff to consider in their action plan.

HOW THE SCHOOL HAS IMPROVED SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION

The school has addressed most of the weaknesses noted in the previous inspection report and has sustained its overall high standards well. The school has clear and realistic targets for raising attainment even higher and is not complacent about its high achievements. The new headteacher's clear vision and the commitment of staff and governors place the school in a good position for improvement and for meeting its targets.

STANDARDS IN SUBJECTS

The table shows the standards achieved by 11 year olds in 1997 based on the National Curriculum tests:

Performance in	Compared with all schools	Compared with similar schools	Key	
			<i>well above average</i>	A
			<i>above average</i>	B
			<i>average</i>	C
			<i>below average</i>	D
			<i>well below average</i>	E
English	A	B		
Mathematics	A	A		
Science	B	B		

The information shows that standards which are very high compared nationally in English are still above average, but not so high, when they are compared with schools with a similar intake. Standards at the end of Key Stage 1 are high in most other subjects, including information technology and religious education. They are in line with national expectations in art, music and physical education. Pupils in Year 3, in Key Stage 2, are attaining high results, very similar to Year 2 across the curriculum. By five most children have built well on their good entry levels and exceed national expectations in all the required areas of learning.

QUALITY OF TEACHING

Teaching in:	Under 5	5 - 7 years	7 - 11 years
English	good	good	good
Mathematics	good	good	good
Science		good	good
Information technology		good	good
Religious education		good	good
Other subjects	good	good	good

Three quarters of the teaching seen was good, with a quarter very good or excellent. A quarter was satisfactory. No unsatisfactory teaching was seen. High quality teaching is consistent across all stages and in most subjects.

Inspectors make judgements about teaching in the range: excellent; very good; good; satisfactory; unsatisfactory; poor; very poor. 'Satisfactory' means that strengths outweigh any weaknesses.

OTHER ASPECTS OF THE SCHOOL

Aspect	Comment
Behaviour	Very good; pupils are well mannered and trustworthy.
Attendance	Very good; above the national average.
Ethos*	Excellent; pupils have excellent attitudes to work and relationships are very good.
Leadership and management	Very good; the new headteacher is already giving strong direction to the school's work and is working to strengthen the management roles of governors and senior staff.
Curriculum	Good; supported by very good planning and assessment for both key stages and children under five.
Pupils with special educational needs	Good; well designed curriculum and support for pupils needing extra help so all make good progress.
Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	Good overall; particular strengths in moral and social development but spiritual not always well addressed by curriculum or assemblies especially when combined with religious education lessons.
Staffing, resources and accommodation	Good overall with a very good environmental area. Although resources are sufficient to cover the curriculum they do not help teachers extend learning in all subjects.
Value for money	Good.

* *Ethos is the climate for learning; attitudes to work, relationships and the commitment to high standards.*

THE PARENTS' VIEWS OF THE SCHOOL

What most parents like about the school	What some parents are not happy about
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The positive effect of the school's values and attitudes on children• The high standards of good behaviour• The high standards of work achieved• Their children like school• The school is easy to approach with questions or problems• The school encourages children to get involved in more than just their lessons	

The percentage of positive feelings by parents towards the school is unusually high. The percentage of negative responses was extremely small.

Inspectors' views support parents' judgements about the strengths of the school. This is reflected in the report and the fact that there are no key issues to be addressed but only minor issues to guide improvement.

OTHER INFORMATION

The contractor appointed by OFSTED for this inspection was:

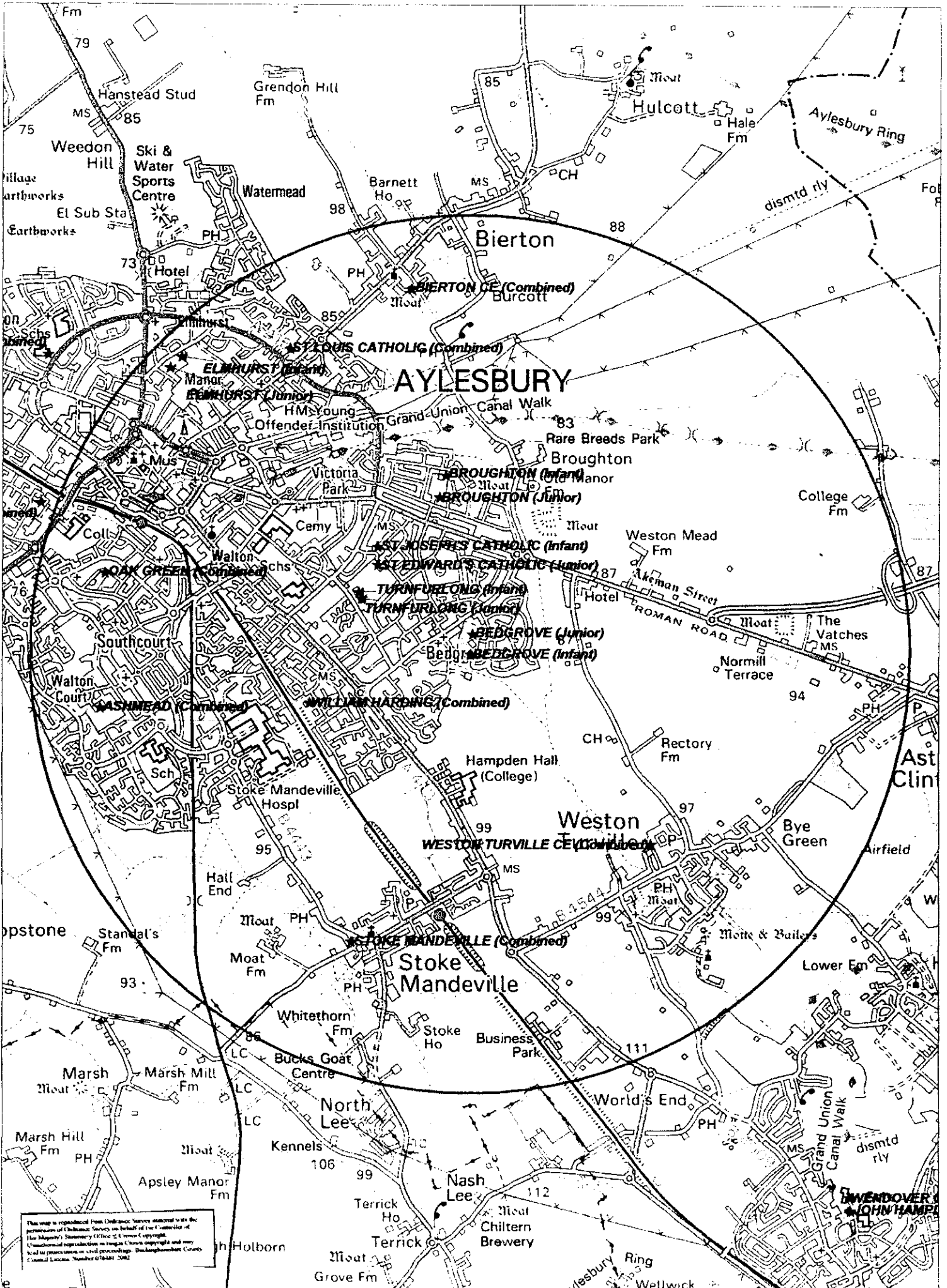
*Anglia College Enterprises Ltd.
Research, Development and Inspection Unit
Anglia Polytechnic University
Danbury Park Conference Centre
Main Road, Danbury
Chelmsford, Essex
CM3 4AT
01245 226930*

Any comments, concerns or complaints about the inspection or the report should be made to the inspection contractor. Complaints which are not satisfactorily resolved by the contractor should be raised with OFSTED by writing to The Registrar, The Office for Standards in Education, Alexandra House, 33 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6SE.

*CROWN COPYRIGHT 1998
OFFICE FOR STANDARDS IN EDUCATION*

This document may be freely reproduced in whole or in part, for non-commercial purposes, provided the source and date are acknowledged.

Schools within a 2 mile radius of Bedgrove Infant School



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction in any form is illegal and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Buckinghamshire County Council Licence Number 619841/3002