

BOARD OF EDUCATION. School No. 248.

Local Education Authority:— Lancashire

School Halsall C. of E.

No. 248

Regd. No. E.20/248/3

INSPECTED ON 3rd November 1930

REPORT BY H.M.I. MR. M.C. MORRIS

This school was re-organised in January, 1929, and now makes provision for its own senior children and for the senior children from three smaller schools in the neighbourhood. In addition to three senior classes (136 children) thus formed, there are two classes of juniors and one class of infants (104 children).

The Practical Instruction (including the practical work in Science) is given in the large dining hall where mid-day meals for about 150 children are cooked and served. This is an inconvenient arrangement: otherwise the conditions for teaching are convenient and sufficient for the present numbers.

Viewed as a whole the school is well directed. The curriculum is sensibly related to the conditions of life in the locality. The teachers work well and the children show a healthy interest in school life. The Head-Master rightly takes a considerable share in the teaching. Nevertheless, it appears doubtful if the staff of six assistant teachers, one of whom is responsible for the Manual Instruction, is sufficient for the efficient working of the school as at present organised.

The curriculum for the senior children includes Gardening, Handicraft, Domestic Subjects, and the keeping of poultry and rabbits. The arrangements for the care of the live-stock, in which girls and boys share, are satisfactory; as this activity develops more space will probably be required for the poultry. The garden is well cultivated and well stocked, and sound instruction in varied gardening practice is given. Nursery work, an outstanding feature of the garden, is particularly

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appropriate for a school in this district. The construction of such things as beehives, rabbit-hutches, a poultry cabin and a greenhouse has been successfully accomplished by the Handicraft classes. It is suggested that in future undertakings of this very useful type the actual construction should be less hurried in order that more attention may be given to the necessary incidental instruction. It was noted at the inspection that many of the boys need more careful instruction in tool manipulation and simple bench work.

Apart from the foregoing remarks comments on the instruction of the senior classes are deferred.

The condition of the junior classes is promising. In the essential subjects the children are given opportunities for progressing according to ability and a creditable degree of attainment results. Speech Training is given on effective lines and the children are encouraged successfully to express themselves orally and in writing.

The Infants' Class is very well managed. The children enter with spirit into well directed activities, they speak and recite distinctly and, though it is hardly apparent that they are subjected to formal teaching, they make good progress in the rudimentary subjects.

It is understood that in future one of the teachers in the junior part of the school will be allowed to assume more definite responsibility for the co-ordination of the work of the classes of juniors and infants.