

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Aidan's Stroud Green Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Albany Road,
Stroud Green,
London,
N4 4RR

Diocese of London

Local authority: Haringey

Date of inspection: 17th September 2007

Date of last inspection: 12th February 2003

Type of school: Voluntary Controlled Primary

School's unique reference number: 102132

Headteacher: Mrs Rosetta Dyer

SIAS Inspector: Angela Hopkins (NS 298)

Context

St Aidan's is a one-form entry primary school with a nursery. The pupils come from a wide socio-economically mixed area. Whilst 20 different languages are spoken within the school this is at stages 3-4; however, there is a significant number of pupils with statements of educational need. The headteacher has been in post since June 2004.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Aidan's as a Church of England school are good

St Aidan's Primary School is a good church school. Pupils are happy and secure in school. They are valued as individuals and are able to form good relationships. The impact of the collective worship is good with a revised policy that emphasises the importance of the daily act of worship. The clear and consistent management style of the leadership team has contributed to the raised Christian ethos of the school and provides the input to increase the effectiveness of St Aidan's as a church school.

Established strength

- Good relationships within the school community.
- The quality of leadership and management are outstanding.
- Good relationships with the local church
- Committed and well informed governors

Focus for development

- To ensure clarity and growth in the continued development of the distinctive Christian vision for the school.
- To explore ways to enhance the impact of collective worship.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners

The school meets the needs of all its learners well. The school has worked to develop a clear Christian character and it has raised its visual impact within the school. The caring support throughout the school enables the learners to do well and fulfil their potential and their work and achievement are celebrated in a number of ways. Relationships throughout the school are very good. The pupils were able to speak confidently on how the school deals with bullying and the emphasis on cross year friendships. The school council provides the pupils with opportunities to raise issues and make a difference to the life of the school. The school has a strong commitment to ensuring that all pupils feel valued whatever their religious faith and to ensuring that they are both inclusive and serve the local community.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The impact of the collective worship in St Aidan's school is good. The prospectus and the Collective Worship policy have been reviewed to clarify the importance of the daily act of worship. It occupies an important place in the life of the school and there are clear themes for each act of worship. The acts of worship observed were both well prepared and both used visual display and artefacts to convey their message. Pupil participation is encouraged and in the acts of worship observed the children were eager to contribute. The worship provided opportunities for prayer. The school needs to explore ways to encourage greater opportunities for reflection and to develop an understanding of the Anglican faith and practice. The school has excellent links with both Holy Trinity and Holy Innocents churches and both parish priests visit the school on a regular basis. At present the school attends church every term and the children use the churches as a resource for RE.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding

The quality of the leadership and management is outstanding and has had a positive impact on the effectiveness of St Aidan's as Christian school. The headteacher is central to raising the profile of the school's church foundation, ensuring that the Christian foundation has a visible presence. She has forged strong and supportive links with the local church and community. Over a period of time the significance of the school's voluntary controlled status had become less clear. The governors and the senior management of the school have worked to raise both the consciousness and clarity of the foundation based on the existing Christian character of the school. Teaching and non-teaching staffs and parents were involved in the discussions with the support of the adviser for the London Diocesan Board for Schools. In light of this work the governors have worked cooperatively on the Section 48 Toolkit, using it as a positive aid to understanding the importance of their voluntary controlled status. Parents are very supportive of the school's aims and are clear that the school provides a caring Christian environment which impacts positively on all learners.