

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Ann's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Avenue Road,
London,
N20 0PL

Diocese of London

Local authority: London Borough of Haringey

Date of inspection: 1st February 2008

Date of last inspection: 16th-18th June 2003

School's unique reference number: 102137

Headteacher: Mrs Linda Sarr

SIAS Inspector: Patrick Regan (N.S. 68)

School context

St. Ann's is an over subscribed one-form entry school with a full time nursery class. It is situated in an area of high social and economic deprivation. The proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals is above average. The school is a rich multi-cultural environment and the majority of pupils are from ethnic minority backgrounds. Almost half of the pupils speak English as an additional language.

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

St Ann's school has a strong mission statement which is lived out on a daily basis and is central to the heart of the school. There is strong evidence to suggest that the aim, 'To provide a Christian context for learning that is caring, stable and academically challenging', is being met. Cultural diversity is celebrated and relationships within the school community are harmonious. The headteacher, supported by staff, clergy and governors jointly create a school where pupils are able to develop as compassionate people. The emphasis on pupils' spiritual development is pervasive in the whole curriculum and in everything the school provides.

Established strengths

- The strong Christian ethos evident in the school.
- The way the headteacher provides excellent Christian leadership.
- The links with the local parish.
- The way collective worship is planned and delivered.
- Well behaved and considerate pupils.

Focus for development

- Establish a regular monitoring cycle for RE in line with other core subjects.

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

There is a very strong Christian ethos evident in the school that reflects the school mission statement. Visitors get an immediate and clear affirmation of the Christian character of the school through imaginative, informative and celebratory displays. The whole school community works together to show care and concern for each other and the environment. The parents are especially supportive and appreciative of the partnership that exists between them and the school and its distinctly Christian character. There is a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment provision to ensure all groups are included. There is an inclusiveness to which all subscribe with a strong emphasis on empowering pupils and parents in the process of self-evaluation which contributes greatly to the pupils' feeling of value and worth. Pupils are very well behaved and courteous to visitors; they enjoy coming to school and talk about it with pride. Their achievement as they progress through the school is excellent. They have outstanding opportunities through an excellent curriculum which values the provision for pupil well being and ensures high quality spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. A high value is placed on achievement especially through the 'Golden Book' where entries are celebrated on Fridays. At the end of each term there is a service in St Ann's Church where certificates and prizes are presented. Pupils show their concern for the wider community through various fund-raising activities especially for their partner school in Uganda.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship occupies a place of vital importance in the life of the school and is a key element in the school's Christian witness and strongly affirms the Christian ethos. It is extremely well planned, delivered and assessed. Collective worship throughout the school is highly valued by pupils, staff, parents and governors. It is enthusiastically celebrated with all present enjoying the experience and being appropriately engaged. Important events in the life of the school are marked by a Christian celebration. A year 6 leavers' service is celebrated each year in St Paul's Church. End of term worship and other major festivals are celebrated in St Ann's Church. Pupils listen very well and respond well. They show reverence and enjoyment, they sing very well and partake eagerly in the weekly RE and worship challenges. They speak positively of their experiences of worship and see its importance to them personally. 'We are able to talk to God and he will give us advice' was a comment from a year 5 pupil. The school is highly sensitive and respectful to the beliefs and traditions of other faiths and those of none. Worship leaders, including all staff, the vicar and visitors, provide a variety of stimulating, imaginative and reflective experiences based on weekly themes. Worship makes clear links with the Church year, other faith celebrations and the wider curriculum. The school has well established excellent links with the local church and community. It also has fostered a strong relationship with a primary school in Uganda.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good.

Achievement in RE in relation to the pupils' background and prior attainment is good and standards of attainment are at least comparable with those in core subjects. Pupils achieve well because teaching is good overall. Lessons are well paced. Teacher's use questioning very effectively, encouraging pupils to express their own feeling and opinions with confidence and sensitivity. They plan carefully for both attainment targets, effectively linking lesson content with pupils' own experience. As a result pupils show very good subject knowledge and are able to relate it to their own lives. For example year 6 pupils were learning about the beatitudes and they were encouraged to reflect on what the beatitudes teach us about how we should behave. In the nursery class pupils were using the story of St Francis and the wolf to show care and concern for others, for living things and the environment. The behaviour of pupils, their enthusiasm, their responses and the pride they take in their work are excellent. A weekly RE challenge is set for all pupils by the RE coordinator. Currently, RE is not monitored as extensively as other core subjects.

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

Leadership and management are good overall with some very good strengths. There is a clear Christian commitment and vision in the school. The headteacher provides excellent Christian leadership and together with the governors communicates, very effectively, the distinctive nature of the school. The distinctiveness is reflected in all school documentation, displays and notice boards. It also impacts on the process of staff appointments where the Christian foundation is stressed in advertisements and job descriptions. Foundation governors are involved in all aspects of school life and welcome all new parents and children individually. The RE and Worship link governor visits the school regularly and reports back to Governors' meetings. The RE coordinator has a good overview of the strengths and areas for development and reports to Governors annually. There is a need for a review of his role in the monitoring and evaluation of RE. There are strong and fruitful links with the local Church community. The headteacher speaks in Church regularly and the school features in the Church newsletters. The Church community supports the school in a prayerful way and was exceptionally supportive after the sudden death of a pupil. There is an active school council where members are proud to represent their peers and they feel their views are listened to. Parents feel that the school has a special quality as a Church school. One parent felt that 'school and Church complement each other; I can see that what is spoken about in Church is reinforced at school'.

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