

# National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

## St Johns Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Buckhurst Hill  
Essex  
1G9 5RX

### Diocese Chelmsford

Local authority: Essex  
Dates of inspection: 05.02.2008  
Date of last inspection: 2005  
School's unique reference number 115094:  
Headteacher: Mr Peter Tidmarsh  
Inspector's name and number: Rev'd Richard Maudsley (305)

### School context

St John's is a large one and a half form entry school with 287 pupils on roll from the ages 4-11. The catchments area is mixed, although generally advantaged socially and economically. The number of pupils entitled to free school meals is low along with the number of pupils with Special Needs. Almost all pupils are of White British heritage and none are new to learning English. The school is well regarded locally and is oversubscribed. The recent rebuilding work has greatly enhanced the excellent facilities and the school situated in spacious grounds is well resourced.

### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Johns school as a Church of England school is outstanding

An outstanding school based on and motivated by the values of its Christian foundation. St Johns Primary School provides an excellent environment in which children can flourish in all aspects of their learning and personal development. Staff, parents, children and Governors are all aware of the high expectations which maximise the opportunities for all the pupils. The school actively encourages the growth and celebration of academic and personal development. Children are very clear in their understanding of the Christian education provided throughout the school and understand that it is helping them to choose their own values for living.

1

### Established strengths

- The outstanding leadership of the Head teacher in establishing the Christian ethos of the school, encompassing the school's vision of inclusiveness based on the Christian values of respecting and loving each other as God loves us.
- Excellent Acts of Worship which children and adults understand to be a special time for thinking, praying and reflecting.
- The high expectations and support of the whole staff for the development of good manners, respect and the celebration of academic and personal achievements of all pupils.
- The close links between the local clergy especially the Associate Minister in helping create the vision of what an extended community school could look like.

### Focus for development

- To continue and develop further the work already started in examining assembly themes in order that they might reflect school based key values.
- Working towards developing the RE curriculum to take full advantage of the new ICT resources

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

The Christian ethos of the school is very strong, and is apparent in all areas of school life from documentation and displays to learning and teaching, and relationships. The discreet

positioning of plain wooden crosses throughout the school is highly commendable and was commented on by a Y6 child who said 'That is what makes our school special' There is a commitment by the head teacher and staff to Christian values that underpin everything the school does. This creates a caring and exciting environment for learning. Staff have high expectations for appropriate academic attainment and behaviour and know the pupils as individuals. Pupils are well supported to achieve these expectations particularly in the work the school has done in developing their ability to think in a structured way. As a result pupils develop confidence and maturity. They are aware of right and wrong and the consequences of each as well as healthy lifestyles. Good relations are strength of the school. The head teacher staff and Associate Minister present role models for pupils to emulate. There is mutual respect and support from the head teacher and staff, in addition to support from the L.A and the Diocese.

1

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

The school places great importance upon collective worship in its daily life. There is clear planning and structure to the daily acts of worship and all members of staff are involved in leading them. Pupils prepare many of the prayers. Evidence of these could be seen in the books of prayers and poems and reflective thoughts written by the children and displayed throughout the school. When questioned during the inspection pupils expressed enjoyment of collective worship and their responses were entirely positive. The act of worship witnessed on Shrove Tuesday was very good and fully in keeping with Anglican tradition. It centred on the theme of seeking forgiveness and leads the way to further observance of Lent. Pupils and staff were fully engaged and the act provided opportunity for prayer, praise and reflection as well as offering spiritual guidance and support. Pupils participated well, particularly in the singing, the reading and prayers. It had a distinctive, original format specific to the school and was a very worshipful occasion.

1

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

The Head teacher inspired by his own Christian vision of the school has moulded a responsive and dedicated team of staff. Parent approve strongly of the ethos of the school and are pleased that their children receive a good education with strong emphasis on manners, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. All the staff are aware of their responsibility to lead this outstanding Church of England school and they are constantly looking to improve all aspects of its Christian ethos. The head teacher staff and governors hold a shared vision for the school as a Christian foundation. Relationships within the school at all levels are excellent. Relationships with the Parish church through the involvement of the Associate Minister are good. Parents are very supportive of the school and recognise its achievements. It is an outstanding Church of England Controlled School.

1