

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant and Nursery School

Gills Hill Lane,
Radlett,
Hertfordshire.
WD7 8DD

Diocese of St Albans

LA: Hertfordshire

SIAS Inspection: 11 March 2008

Previous S23 Inspection: June 2003

URN: 117383

Headteacher: Mrs Katharine Passmore

SIAS Inspector Name: Ms Chris Westgarth 44

School Context

St John's Infant and Nursery School is situated in the 'village' of Radlett, adjacent to St John's Church. The school population represents a mix of social backgrounds, but pupils are mainly from White British backgrounds. At present there are 223 pupils on roll with approximately 11% with special educational needs. There are approximately 9% of pupils eligible for free school meals. The school has healthy school status and Quality Standard for Early Years provision.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St John's Infant and Nursery as a Church of England school are outstanding

St John's is an outstanding, inclusive school where all are valued and respected. The headteacher, staff and governors have a clear Christian vision and high expectations. The learners are happy and secure and as a result flourish.

Established strengths

- Strong Christian Ethos
- Good relationships throughout the school
- Happy, friendly, well behaved children
- Headteacher and Governors work hard to promote the distinctive Christian character of the school

Focus for development

- Increase pupil involvement in prayer (for example Classes saying Grace before lunch)
- Consider using the church (liturgical) colours as a focal point in collective Worship

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

There is an atmosphere and ethos of love, care and support with each person being treated as an individual. As a result all learners feel valued and special. Learners flourish and are included. The staff model good relationships and all relationships are very good. The whole school environment is clean, tidy and very well cared for, reinforcing the Christian desire to care for the wider environment. Lunchtimes are calm and orderly with a special family atmosphere. Learners talk positively about the year 2 residential trip to Burwell House. The recent staff meeting on Spirituality has been beneficial in raising the profile and recognising what happens in the school. Charitable involvement is strong including the distribution of Harvest Gifts and the Advent Collection for Blakenhall Heath. Christian values are evident in class displays and learners have a clear understanding about saying sorry and forgiveness. There is a strong emphasis on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural values across the whole school curriculum. The recently revised policy for SMSC is to be commended. The behaviour of the children is outstanding. Positive behaviour strategies such as 'Golden rules' and the use of the SEAL (*Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning*) programme reinforce the exemplary behaviour observed throughout the day. Involvement of the wider school community including the PTA and local churches enhances the positive ethos of the school. Year 2 Playleaders are appointed to maintain the quality of play at breaks and lunchtimes. They take on the role well and act responsibly and with pride, again creating a good family atmosphere.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

All learners speak positively about Collective Worship (Assembly time) and Worship plays a pivotal role in the life of the school community. Worship appears as an area for development in the School Improvement Plan recognising the importance of this area in the life of the school. Learners from other faiths and backgrounds are fully integrated. Worship is monitored by the headteacher and evaluated by staff, pupils and governors. Pupils enter and exit the hall quietly and participate well in the singing. Learners participation in worship and storytelling was observed as a spiritual experience. As a result their knowledge and understanding of Christian stories is strong and they are able to recall and articulate well what they have learnt and experienced in worship times. The proposed introduction of a prayer box is good as pupils are keen to be creatively involved in prayer times. Governing Body meetings begin with prayer, which is to be commended. The purchase of 'prayer' books by the local churches will help to further raise the profile of prayer in the life of the school. There are strong links with the local church and good opportunities to use the church building for special services. Learners participate fully in these services through prayer and worship.

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

The Headteacher and Governors have a clear vision of the Christian Character of the school. There is a strong, inclusive ethos where all are valued and respected. Learners are encouraged to develop responsibility and the school is keen to hear their voice. As a result the School Council works well and plays an active and important role in the school leadership. Governors have good knowledge of the school and regularly challenge and monitor the Christian Character of the school. Christian values are given a high priority by the Headteacher, Senior Management Team and Governors. The distinctive Christian character is reinforced through the ethos, relationships, documentation and displays. The plans to refurbish the entrance area will visually strengthen the Christian Character. The recent OfSTED report graded the school as outstanding but commented that the school judged itself to be good 'but it is modest in its self-assessment, reflecting its refusal to become complacent and its desire to continue to improve'. This statement models the strength of Christian values that underpin the school and the leadership and management.

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