

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Paul's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

St Paul's Road,
Brentford,
TW8 0PN

Diocese of London

Local authority: London Borough of Hounslow

Date of inspection: 5th February 2008

Date of last inspection: 15th-16th October 2002

Type of School: Voluntary Aided Primary

School's unique reference number: 102524

Headteacher: Mrs Sandra James

SIAS Inspector: Angela Hopkins (N.S. 298)

Context

St Paul's C of E Primary School is an average size primary school. The pupils are from a number of different ethnic and faith backgrounds. There is a high proportion of children for whom English is not their first language. The head teacher has been in post for seven years.

Summary Judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Paul's Primary School as a church school is outstanding.

Within the strong Christian ethos pupils are happy and secure. They are valued as individuals and are able to form good relationships. The Collective Worship underpins the ethos and provides time for reflection and prayer. The teaching of RE is a strength of the school and the pupils make good progress in all Key Stages. The management style of the leadership team contributes to the strong Christian ethos of the school. There are very strong links between the school and its parish church.

Established strengths

- Good relationships within the school community.
- The quality of leadership and management.
- Very strong relationships with the local church.
- The quality of the teaching of RE.
- The importance of collective worship to the life of the school.

Focus for development

- Enhance the teaching of RE with a programme of visits and visitors

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all its learners outstandingly well.

The Christian character and ethos is a strength of the school and is reflected in its policies. The school environment with its numerous displays and Christian symbols also encourages reflection and spiritual development. Christian values are evident throughout the school, particularly in the quality of care given to all pupils. Relationships throughout the school are excellent. Both parents and children spoke of the school having a welcoming and friendly atmosphere where they felt both welcome and safe. The school has a strong commitment to ensuring that all pupils feel valued and supported. The school makes the raising of pupils' self esteem and independence a priority. Whilst there are strong links between the church and school consideration should be given to a greater exchange of information both in school and church to celebrate the children's achievement and keep the parents informed of the events in the church.

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

The links between church and school are very strong. The school worships weekly in the parish church and numbers of parents from all the faiths represented in the school regularly attend. Worship is consistently Christian and includes opportunities for reflection and prayer. The worship observed was inclusive, stimulating and challenging and also included opportunities for reflection and prayer. The pupils were attentive, keen to contribute and enthusiastically joined in the hymns and prayers. The children spoke of their enjoyment and interest in the themes explored in the collective worship. They also spoke of the fact that "St Paul's is a praying school." There is a clear pattern to worship and all staff attend. Important events and major Christian festivals are celebrated in St Paul's church and involve the whole school community. There are no withdrawals from any of the collective worship.

The effectiveness of Religious Education is outstanding

The RE coordinator has ensured that the subject is well planned, resourced, regularly timetabled and monitored. The scheme of work in use at present and its assessment procedures provide a supportive structure for both teaching and learning and teachers are able to access both ideas and resources. The teaching of RE has been a priority in the school and the appointment of a coordinator and the introduction of monitoring of planning, observation of teaching and work scrutiny have raised the children's attainment. The quality of teaching observed was outstanding and the activities were well planned and challenging. In the lessons observed there were opportunities for drama, reflection, cooperative working and creativity. The use of St Paul's church and the clergy as a resource by one class learning about Christian Baptism enabled the children to participate in role play; they were well prepared and therefore the lesson had a positive impact on their understanding of the meaning of Baptism. There is a positive and consistent approach to behaviour management. As a result the pupils are attentive and their attitude to the subject is positive. They are able to speak confidently about their previous learning and to express their beliefs using appropriate religious vocabulary. Whilst the scheme has good coverage of the other major faiths the school has not taken advantage of the local area to either visit or have visitors from these faiths.

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

The leadership team has had a very positive impact on the effectiveness of St Paul's' as Christian school. The clear Christian vision agreed by the leadership has been a major factor in the school's development as an effective church school. The relationships within the school community are very good and there is clear evidence of contact with parents and governors who contribute to the school's self-evaluation process. The governing body provides very effective support and are active in promoting the Christian ethos of the school and visit the school regularly. The links between the school and the parish and its clergy have been vital in raising the effectiveness of St Paul's as a church school. The school has also received considerable support both from the Diocese and the Area Bishop. Since the last inspection the governors and the leadership team have put into place a number of initiatives that have ensured that all the previous key issues have been addressed.