

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

St Peter's Grove,
Hammersmith,
London,
W6 9AY

Diocese of London

Local authority: Hammersmith & Fulham

Date of inspection: 25th January 2008

Date of last inspection: June 2003

Type of School: Voluntary Aided Primary

School's unique reference number: 100352

Headteacher: Mrs Jean Shipton

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

School context

St Peter's is a one form entry primary school on three sites in the parish of St Peter, Hammersmith. The nursery is part time with children attending a morning or afternoon session. Pupils come from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. One third of pupils come from minority ethnic groups. The proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language is higher than average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St. Peter's as a Church of England school are outstanding

St Peter's is an outstanding church school where the Christian vision and ethos permeates throughout all aspects of school life. The governors, clergy, headteacher and staff communicate a unity of purpose to ensure that every member of the school community feels a real sense of belonging to a church school.

Established strengths

- The way the headteacher and all stakeholders communicate and cooperate in ensuring the school is effective in providing a high quality education in a distinctly Christian environment.
- The excellent and positive relationships that exist between the school and the parish.
- The high status of RE and Worship within the school and the way they are led.
- The school's Christian environment
- Knowledgeable and committed teachers.
- Well behaved and confident pupils.

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. This Christian ethos underpins everything that happens at St Peter's. The relationships with clergy, governors and parents are extremely important in ensuring that opportunities are provided for all pupils to fulfil their potential. There is a strong commitment to high standards of achievement, behaviour and inclusivity. There exists a climate of mutual respect where pupils from all abilities and backgrounds are encouraged to flourish. Achievement is celebrated whenever possible. Opportunities are given for pupils to grow in the Christian values of compassion, love and forgiveness. They are extremely well behaved and courteous to each other and visitors. Pupils know that their views are taken seriously; there is an active school council. Pupils enjoy school; they feel happy and secure and take a great pride in being a member of St Peter's. The school proudly proclaims its Christian distinctiveness through its prospectus, corridor and classroom displays and year books. The newly built spiritual garden will provide opportunities for pupils to pray and reflect.

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 fundamental aspect of its Christian character. Pupils talk with confidence and knowledge about the church's year. Prayers, songs and affirmations support the Anglican tradition. Major Christian festivals are celebrated in school and the local church. There are excellent relationships and communication between school and church. The headteacher is the Worship Coordinator; she carefully plans the themes for each week's worship in consultation with the clergy and staff. Worship reflects the Christian ethos of the school. Music, prayer and time for reflection are an integral part of each assembly whether it be whole school, key stage or in class. The clergy contribute to worship three times a week, one of them led by a Salvation Army Officer. Pupils are respectful during worship and are encouraged to be reflective. They contribute thoughtfully through creating their own prayers and sing very well and enthusiastically. They say that worship is important to them as a time for coming together and to reflect. Pupils listen well and are sensitive to each other's contributions. Parents are given the opportunity to attend worship and many make special efforts to attend the Friday celebration worship. Staff are willing participants at worship; they appreciate and promote its value. They recognise that worship is at the centre of the religious experiences the pupils are offered.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding.

Religious education is outstanding and has a very high profile in the curriculum. Pupils make very good progress in RE and standards are high. RE is extremely well led and rigorously monitored. The headteacher is the RE coordinator, she observes lessons, monitors books and planning and has regular discussions with teachers and the clergy. This monitoring and target setting has shown that provision has improved steadily over the last three years and all targets set through monitoring have been achieved. She advises teachers on lessons and planning and encourages staff to attend RE inset. She is planning to refresh the current Solihull scheme of work with the new Diocesan scheme. Planning for RE is undertaken in a cross curricular way and is especially taught as part of Literacy lessons. All classes were observed teaching RE. Teachers are confident and are skilled and enthusiastic in the planning and delivery of RE lessons. They use open ended questions to develop pupils' ability to reflect on what they are learning and to develop them spiritually. Using the story of Ghandi, Year 6 pupils were able to discuss perceptively the concept of what and who inspires us and what is worth 'standing up' for. In the reception class children were learning the Lord's Prayer using a range of imaginative activities. At the plenary they lit a candle and shared the prayer together. All pupils observed and spoken with enjoy religious education and see its relevance to their own lives and to the school's values. One pupil commented 'I enjoy learning how Jesus wants me to live'. Their behaviour and responses were exemplary; they enjoyed discussions and sharing knowledge about their faith.

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

Leadership and management are both strong because of the very close relationships between the headteacher, the governors and the clergy. Together, they ensure effective communication between all stakeholders in providing a clear Christian vision and ethos for St Peter's School. The headteacher as RE and Worship coordinator is highly effective in ensuring high profile and standards. She strongly believes that the school should be distinctively Christian while remaining inclusive and welcoming. The governing body is clearly focused and proactive in its role as a critical friend to successfully promote the ethos of a church school. It takes its responsibility for RE and Worship seriously and always ensures that the headteacher has a RE/Worship performance management target. The input by the clergy is significant; the parish priest and curate are highly supportive and both demonstrate an excellent pastoral role. All members of the school community are valued and there is a strong commitment to staff development. All new staff appointments explore the values of being a member of a Church of England school. The Christian ethos is supported by all staff as an integral part of life at St. Peter's. The parent partnership is very strong, the parents' prayer group meet regularly and the headteacher is asked for prayer requests. They speak highly of the commitment of staff and of the school's celebration of its Christian dimension.

SIAS report January 2008 St Peter's, Hammersmith, W6 9BA