

**STATUTORY
INSPECTION OF
ANGLICAN SCHOOLS**



Name & address of school: **Christ Church C of E Primary School**
Clarence Road, Kilburn, London, NW6 7GT

Diocese of London

Date of inspection: 10th March 2008

Type of School: Voluntary Aided Primary

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Bridget Methuen

Local authority: Brent

Date of last inspection: 6th-7th May 2003

School's unique reference number: 101533

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

Context

Christ Church is a one-form entry primary school with a nursery. Most of its pupils are of a minority ethnic origin, mainly of Black British origin. At least a third of the pupils have English as a second language. The school building is very cramped and in need of refurbishment. At the time of the inspection the school was undergoing both building work and redecoration. In recent years there has been a high turnover of staff. The present headteacher has been in post for 2 years.

Summary Judgements

Christ Church Primary School is a good church school. There is a strong Christian ethos and positive links with the parish priest. The pupils feel valued and are able to make a positive contribution to the life of the school particularly through the "Pupils' Parliament." The school has put in place procedures that ensure that the pupils feel secure and speak confidently about all aspects of school life. The teaching of RE is satisfactory with good elements and attainment is in line with progress in other curriculum areas. However, the introduction of a new scheme of work has not been clearly established and the policy for assessment and monitoring needs to be strengthened. The headteacher, senior staff and the chair of Governors have worked to increase the effectiveness of Christ Church as a church school. The strong Christian foundation of the school is not sufficiently celebrated visually with all its stakeholders through symbols and displays.

Established strengths

- Good Christian ethos in which all pupils are nurtured and valued.
- The quality of leadership, which has a clear Christian vision for the school.
- The excellent commitment and support of the Rector.

Focus for development

- To ensure that the new scheme of work is clearly established and resourced to support teaching and learning in RE
- To establish assessment and monitoring procedures that inform curriculum development
- To ensure that the Christian vision and foundation of the school is celebrated and shared visually through displays and symbols around the school

The school meets the needs of all its learners well.

The school has a very clear Christian ethos and is committed to promoting Christian values within the curriculum. The caring support throughout the school enables the majority of the learners to do well and fulfil their potential. The support for pupils is good and the school has developed a number of initiatives to both support and challenge children's learning and behaviour. Relationships throughout the school are good. The school has developed a system of peer mediators, "Red Caps," allowing children to support one another within the school. The children spoke of the special training they had received to enable them to deal with different situations confidently. In discussion it was clear that they were aware that the school was a church school and all spoke of knowing Father David and his links with the school. The school has a very strong commitment to ensuring that all pupils feel valued whatever their religious faith.

The impact of the collective worship in Christ Church school is good.

It occupies a central place in the life of the school. The school attends church twice each term and the Eucharist is celebrated in school each half term. The Rector leads worship in school regularly. The worship is Christian and includes music, singing, the lighting of a candle and silence which encourages the pupils to both reflect and participate. The school has increased the pupil contribution to worship by introducing more frequent class worship that has been enjoyed and the pupils appreciate the opportunity to take part. The school is beginning to form links with the local Jewish and Muslim schools and there have been opportunities for a sharing of ideas at major festivals such as the Jewish Passover. The worship is well planned and follows a clear theme. The Parish Priest and the Senior Leadership Team evaluate the impact of the collective worship and are exploring ways to improve the act of worship to allow greater pupil participation and to use ICT to enhance the resources.

Religious Education is satisfactory

In the lessons observed the subject was well taught, clearly planned and the children were able to recall previous learning. The children responded well and were eager to contribute to the lesson and worked collaboratively when given the opportunity. The activities drew on the children's knowledge; and in one lesson writing their own eulogies contributed to raising their self-esteem. There is insufficient differentiation to challenge the more able and to raise standards. The attainment in all three key stages is satisfactory and in line with progress in other curriculum areas. The RE coordinator has been in post since September 2007 and, whilst there has been some monitoring of planning and pupil's work, any impact on the effectiveness of RE is dependent on the introduction of the new scheme.

The scheme of work in place is at present being updated and changed and the new scheme is not firmly embedded or resourced. There has been no regular assessment, lesson observation and monitoring to enable teachers to make secure judgements on learner's progress.

The pupils' attitude to the subject, however, is positive and they speak confidently about the subject.

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

The leadership of the headteacher and senior staff has had a positive impact on the effectiveness of Christ Church as Christian school. The headteacher has been central to raising the profile of the school's church foundation and forging strong and supportive links with the local church. The school buildings are at present being updated and improved; once this is completed they should help to proclaim the school's Christian foundation visually. The appointment of a new deputy-head has strengthened the senior management team. The role of the Rector of Christ Church is also important to the leadership of Christ Church as an effective church school as he visits regularly to lead worship and to offer pastoral support to the school community. The governing body is supportive but is under strength and is developing its role in the school's self-evaluation process. Teaching and non-teaching staff feel involved and appreciated and the relationships within the whole school community are good. The school's "Inclusion Unit" has done much with both parents and pupils to support the ethos of the school. Parents are supportive of the school's aims and the majority are happy that the school provides a caring Christian environment which impacts positively on all learners.

