



Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Christ Church C of E Primary School
47a Brick Lane
Spitalfields London
E1 6PU

Status: VA
Diocese: London
LA: Tower Hamlets
Date of Inspection: 8th February 2007
Date of last inspection: 4th & 7th October 2004
School's Unique reference number: 100944
Name of Headteacher: Mrs Judith Hammill
Inspector's name: Angela Hopkins 298

Context

Christ Church is a one-form entry primary school with Nursery. The school serves an area of significant disadvantage in the Borough of Tower Hamlets. Almost all of its pupils are of Bangladeshi origin and have English as an additional language. The majority of the pupils are practising Muslims and attend the Mosque regularly. The headteacher has been in post for three years.

Summary Judgements

Christ Church Spitalfields is a good church school which through the excellence of its leadership meets the needs of its learners outstandingly well. Pupils are both happy and secure in school. They are valued as individuals and are encouraged to be confident in expressing their ideas. The RE Scheme is used creatively and provides support and resources for the teaching staff. There is an extremely strong link to the local parish church; the rector and other church members actively contribute to the life of the school. The leadership and management are good. The headteacher, senior staff and governors have worked to increase the effectiveness of Christ Church as a church school. It has a strong but implicit Christian foundation, which needs to be celebrated visually with all stakeholders.

Established strengths

- A strong Christian ethos in which all are nurtured and valued.
- A high level of achievement in RE.
- Good provision for the spiritual and moral development of all learners.
- The quality of leadership and management, which has a clear Christian vision for the school.
- Good relationship with the local church.
- A vision and ethos that has worked to support the parents to develop a cohesive community.

Focus for development

- To ensure that the Christian vision and foundation of the school is celebrated and shared visually through displays and symbols in the main public areas of the school.
- To ensure that the planned changes to the RE scheme are monitored and reviewed.

How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?

The school, through its distinctly Christian character, meets the needs of all its learners outstandingly well. The learners are aware of the Christian character of the school and the majority Muslim pupils feel valued and supported by this ethos. The pupils spoke of feeling confident and secure in school. Relationships throughout the school are very good. The relationship with the local church is very strong and includes after school clubs. Parents and children spoke of the support given by the school to the whole school community and the welcoming, happy environment provided.

What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?

The impact of the collective worship in Christchurch school is good. It occupies an important place in the life of the school and there is clear planning for each act of worship. The worship is an important part of the school's Christian witness and the contribution of the rector and others from local churches set high expectations for the pupils' spiritual development as recognized by the recent OFSTED report. The worship observed included a variety of opportunities for both prayer and reflection. The pupils were keen to participate in the story and sung with enthusiasm. The worship is consistently Christian, but the school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of the 87% Muslim pupils in the school.

How effective is the religious education?

The effectiveness of Religious Education is good. The subject is well planned, resourced, regularly timetabled and monitored. The quality of lesson delivery and set tasks observed was very good. The level of pupil progress in both attainment targets is good. Pupils are able to express and explain their own beliefs clearly. The pupils' attitude to the subject is positive and in discussion revealed both knowledge and understanding. The scheme of work in place provides a supportive structure for both teaching and learning and teachers are able to access both ideas and resources. The work scrutiny revealed that the lessons were often imaginatively presented, using the senses to encourage the pupils to develop spiritually as well as in their knowledge of religion. In one year group teaching on Buddhism had included work on the use of meditation to support the pupils' reflective skills.

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

The quality of the leadership and management is outstanding and has had a positive impact on the effectiveness of Christ Church as Christian school; the headteacher who has been in post for three years is central to this improvement. Teaching and non-teaching staff feel involved and have been central to the development of the new vision statement that reflects the importance of the Christian ethos of the school. The relationships within the whole school community are very good and all staff are committed to working together to move the school forward. Parents are very supportive of the school's aims and are happy that the school provides a caring Christian environment which impacts positively on all learners. The school has appointed a "Parent liaison and Support Staff coordinator." This post has enabled the school to provide a weekly informal parents' club, English language classes and a toy library. A great number of the parents spoke of how highly they valued this support. This support has also encouraged the parents to serve as parent governors which has strengthened the effectiveness of the governing body.

