

St Leonard's Church of England Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100617
Local Authority	Lambeth
Inspection number	276348
Inspection dates	8–9 June 2006
Reporting inspector	Christopher Gray

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	4–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Canon Jeffrey Wilcox Mr Colin Edwards
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	42 Mitcham Lane Streatham London SW16 6NP
Telephone number	02087692712
Fax number	02086646025

Age group	4–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

The school is similar in size to most primary schools. The percentage of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds is much higher than found in most schools, though the proportion of pupils at the early stages of learning English is close to what is usually found. There is a very wide variation in pupils' backgrounds, from considerable advantage to much deprivation. The percentage of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is above average, as is the proportion with statements of special educational need. Children's attainment on entry to school is lower than found in most schools.

Key for inspection grades

Grade 1	Outstanding
Grade 2	Good
Grade 3	Satisfactory
Grade 4	Inadequate

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade:

What the school should do to improve further

- * make more rigorous checks during the course of the year to help pupils keep on track to meet their targets by the end
- * give pupils more opportunities to use their ICT skills in a range of subjects
- * share the good practice in teachers' marking of pupils' work to achieve more consistency in showing pupils how to improve.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Pupils learn well because their lessons are enjoyable and because they work hard. Interest and challenge are added to their learning by teachers' good use of interactive whiteboards. In a good mathematics lesson for Year 6 pupils, the teacher asked pupils to give the coordinates of a triangle when reflected across a line of symmetry. Pupils enjoyed discussing the problem in pairs and learnt well because of the visual clarity of the example. Teachers use displays well to demonstrate pupils' achievement, especially in art, and this enhances their pride in their work. Pupils understand the targets that are set for them and say they help them to make improvements in their work. This helps pupils of all abilities to achieve well. Some teachers use this approach when they mark pupils' work, showing them how they might have incorporated some feature in order to meet a target. However, this good practice is not common to all teachers.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is relevant to the backgrounds of the pupils and meets the needs of all. It is designed to promote pupils' enjoyment, as can be seen in photographs of them at work in art and design or the good singing in assembly. An outstanding English lesson for Year 2 pupils began in the school's excellent nature garden, which pupils help to develop. Pupils made notes of their observations before writing formal descriptions in the style of non-fiction. A good range of extra-curricular activities is well supported by pupils. An example is the school choir, which often performs outside the school. Very good links with outside bodies, such as English National Opera, add depth to pupils' experience. Provision for literacy and numeracy is good. The school has recently updated its computer provision and one of its current priorities is to use the suite of laptops in a range of different lessons.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The quality of care is good. It ensures that the procedures for child protection are applied rigorously and are known to all adults. Risk assessments are thorough and regular. Pupils are clear about who they can approach if they have problems. As a result, they feel safe and well supported by staff. Pupils say that bullying does not happen and are confident that it would be effectively dealt with if it did.

Pupils who have particular needs are given good support, especially those who have learning difficulties and those needing help to speak English. The school identifies the needs of gifted and talented pupils and has an effective programme to meet them. End of year assessments are used well in determining pupils' next stages of learning and in setting clear targets for them. However, there is no formal mid-term assessment to ensure that pupils keep on track.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Annex B**Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection****Pupils**

You made us feel very welcome when we visited your school recently and really helped us to enjoy our visit. There are many things we shall remember about St Leonard's. One is visiting the Nature Garden with Class 2 during a literacy lesson and seeing all the interesting things they found. Another is the assembly where Year 6 pupils read out their thoughtful reviews of the play they had seen in Wimbledon.

You attend a good school, and one of the things that make it so is your good behaviour. You enjoy your learning and take great pride in your work, as we saw in the photographs of all you did during the recent Arts fortnight. The adults also work hard to make St Leonard's a good school. Teaching is good, lessons are interesting and there are many extra things for you to do, such as the very busy school choir. The headteacher leads the school well and all adults help to make sure that you are well looked after and that you make good progress. We have asked the school to do two extra things to make your progress even better. One is to do with your targets, which you told us help you to improve. We have asked teachers to keep a closer check during the year on how near you are to your targets. We have also asked them to give you more written help when they mark your work as to how you might use the targets to make your work even better.

Your school now has an interactive whiteboard in every class and a lovely new set of laptop computers. We saw a class enjoying using them during an English lesson and we have asked teachers to give you more opportunities to use them in many more lessons.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Gray

Lead Inspector