

St John Baptist Southend Church of England Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100728
Local Authority	Lewisham
Inspection number	276373
Inspection dates	7–8 December 2005
Reporting inspector	Robert Lovett HMI

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	Mrs Andrea Blower Mr John Goodey
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Beachborough Road Bromley BR1 5RL
Telephone number	02086983059
Fax number	02086951249

Age group	4–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors and one Additional Inspector.

Description of the school

St John Baptist Church of England VA Primary School is situated in Bromley in the London Borough of Lewisham. With 208 pupils on roll it is smaller than average. Most pupils come from the surrounding wards which are more economically disadvantaged than most. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is well above the national average, as is the proportion of pupils who speak a first language other than English. The proportion of pupils identified as having special educational needs is below average. The headteacher was appointed in October 2005, following two terms as acting headteacher.

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

Focus on:* raising standards, particularly in mathematics and science by improving teaching so that it is good overall* using assessment information more consistently to inform teachers' planning.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

The school judges the overall quality of teaching and learning as satisfactory and inspectors agree. The school knows that while some teaching is good, it is satisfactory overall. The leadership team is working hard to raise the standard of all teaching to at least good and is well placed to do so. Teaching in the Foundation Stage is good because staff have a good understanding of how pupils learn best. The best teaching was characterised by a brisk pace, well planned activities which met the needs of all learners and the effective use of questioning to ensure everyone joined in. In these lessons pupils were clear about what they were learning and why, and expectations were high. There was also a sense of fun and good links were made to real life situations such as a shopping trip to Calais. In teaching which was less effective, time was not well used so that too little was achieved and pupils made insufficient progress. Teachers are beginning to use assessment information to ensure that pupils make good progress, for instance, in writing in Year 2. However, these assessments are not consistently used in planning teaching and learning. Feedback to pupils tells them how well they are doing and how to improve their work.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The Foundation Stage curriculum meets the needs of the pupils well. Pupils settle into school very quickly and enjoy a wide range of interesting indoor and outdoor activities with a good balance between those which are adult-led and those initiated by pupils. The curriculum gives good attention to teaching mathematical development and communication, language and literacy. In Years 1 to 6, the curriculum is broad and balanced and is well planned to teach the basic skills in English, mathematics, science and information and communication technology (ICT). The school's recent emphasis on making the whole curriculum more interesting and relevant, although in its early stages, is beginning to raise standards and pupils' achievement. Pupils are taught about staying safe and keeping healthy. The personal social and health education programme effectively contributes to this. Provision for gifted and talented pupils is satisfactory overall, with strengths in music and sports. Pupils with additional needs in learning English are supported very well. Extra curricular activities and links with other schools

and with the local and wider communities are good. These enhance the curriculum well and provide very good opportunities for pupils to work in teams, show initiative and develop self-confidence.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

The quality of the care, guidance and support provided to pupils is good. Staff know the pupils very well and are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being. The school has appropriate child protection procedures. Pupils say they trust their teachers and other staff and are confident to ask for help if they need it. There are effective arrangements to ensure that pupils settle very quickly into the reception class. Pupils with special educational needs, and those with additional needs in learning English are identified quickly. Prompt action is then taken to support them and their progress is meticulously tracked. The school works very well with parents, carers and external agencies to support pupils. There are very good links with local schools, including a special school and an arts college. The school has worked very effectively with the local church and the mayor of Lewisham to promote pupils' positive values and a sense of citizenship. Millwall Football Club and Kent County Cricket Club have been well used to promote self-esteem and provide good support to the curriculum. The school has been working determinedly to ensure that pupils are assessed more rigorously and is now able to accurately track the progress of individual pupils.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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

Thank you very much for welcoming us into your school and telling us about it. Your views were very helpful and ensured we got to know your school well.

We think your school cares for and looks after you very well. You told us the school listens carefully to your views and acts on them. We were very impressed with your excellent behaviour in lessons and around the school. You get on well with each other and with the adults who work in the school and are very polite, honest and friendly. The school is a very calm and hard working place, but there is still a good sense of the fun of learning. You said you enjoy coming to school very much and you really appreciate the many clubs and activities the school offers. The headteacher and staff work hard to make the school a better place. They have a clear picture of what is good in the school and what you all need to work harder at. One of the jobs ahead is to make sure your work in mathematics and science improves so that it's as good as your work in English. Your teachers will also be working hard to make sure what they plan to teach is interesting and enjoyable and is well matched to what you need to learn. They have already begun work on these tasks and this will need to continue.

You told us your school has improved a lot recently, it's now up to you and your teachers to make it even better. We wish you success in making this happen and hope you enjoy the rest of your time in school.