

St James The Great Roman Catholic Primary School

Inspection report

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|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Unique Reference Number | 100825 |
| Local Authority | Southwark |
| Inspection number | 276396 |
| Inspection dates | 29–30 June 2006 |
| Reporting inspector | Madeleine Gerard |

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

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|---|------------------------------------|
| Type of school | Primary |
| School category | Voluntary aided |
| Age range of pupils | 3–11 |
| Gender of pupils | Mixed |
| Number on roll | |
| School | |
| Appropriate authority | The governing body |
| Chair | Ms Ann Cutting Mr E N Dunphy |
| Date of previous school inspection | Not previously inspected |
| School address | Peckham Road London SE15 5LP |
| Telephone number | 02077035870 |
| Fax number | 02072771491 |

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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

This is an average size Roman Catholic primary school. Almost all the pupils come from minority ethnic groups with the large majority from Black African backgrounds. The majority of pupils speak English as an additional language although very few are at the early stage of learning English. There is a high level of social need in the area served by the school.

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

andbull; Make more effective use of assessment information to set consistently challenging tasks, for all the more able pupils.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching and learning are good. Children make good progress and learn effectively because lessons are interesting and motivating. Good use is made of new technologies, such as interactive white boards (IWB). Teachers have high expectations for behaviour, set a brisk pace in lessons and demand that written work is well presented. Overall, the assessment of pupils' progress is satisfactory. Teachers know the children well, have a good appreciation of their individual strengths and weaknesses and most lessons are well planned with work which is suited to all levels of ability. However, assessment information is not being used consistently to ensure tasks provide greater challenge for all the more able pupils in order to ensure that they reach the higher levels in English, mathematics and science of which they are capable. Pupils who have learning difficulties and disabilities are given individualised support, which enables them to achieve well. Teaching assistants work closely with class teachers, are well prepared and contribute effectively in all lessons.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is good. It is generally matched to the needs of most pupils and provides a broad and interesting range of work. Subject coordinators are working hard to make improvements in all areas and are developing links between subjects and a more creative range of work. Themed weeks, such as the recent Science week, enhance the activities planned in the different areas of learning. Pupils develop strong ICT skills, and have good opportunities to use computers and other technology to support their work in other subjects.

Enrichment experiences are strong. For example, all pupils in Year 4 are learning to play the guitar. Pupils benefit from a range of outings to local places of interest and residential visits in both Year 4 and Year 6. Visitors to the school provide an exciting variety of opportunities. There is a number of extra-curricular clubs organised by the school staff. The popular knitting club, for example, has succeeded in teaching boys and girls to knit. Pupils with learning difficulties are included well in all activities.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

Care, guidance and support for the pupils are good. Effective health and safety arrangements are regularly reviewed and all staff are fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to child protection issues. The benefits of healthy eating and regular exercise are promoted while pupils are alerted to the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse. Healthy habits are fostered early. The Foundation Stage pupils each have a mug and toothbrush available and brush their teeth after morning break and lunch.

All staff are trained to recognise when children are at risk. Comprehensive strategies are in place to provide support where necessary and the school works effectively with a number of outside agencies to support pupils.

Pupils' progress is regularly tracked. Assessment is used to help plan work which is relevant and builds on prior learning. However, teachers are not yet able to use assessment information to ensure all individual pupils are suitably challenged, especially more able pupils.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Pupils

Thank you for making us so welcome and helping us when we visited your school recently. You told us that you enjoyed being at school and we could see why.

Your school is a good school. These are some of the best things about it:

- Your teachers work hard to make lessons interesting, and use computers and other technology well to help you.
- Your teaching assistants give you lots of help, especially those of you who find learning difficult.
- The headteacher and other staff work hard together to organise exciting activities and visits to support the work you are doing in lessons.
- Most of you make good progress.
- The school gives you opportunities to work in pairs or small groups and to get involved in the school and local communities which help you to develop useful skills for your adult lives.

These are the things we have suggested those in charge of the school do to make it even better:

- Use the assessments they make of how well you are doing to ensure that you are all given work that is hard enough and challenges you to do even better.

St James the Great Catholic Primary School is a good school.

With every good wish for the future,

Madeleine Gandeacute;ard

Lead Inspector