

St George's Church of England Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100827
Local Authority	Southwark
Inspection number	276397
Inspection dates	13–14 July 2006
Reporting inspector	Grace Marriott

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	Reverend Nicholas Elder Mrs T Nouri
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Coleman Road Camberwell London SE5 7TF
Telephone number	02077034772
Fax number	02072771937

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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

St George's is a fairly small primary school which serves several Anglican parishes. Most pupils come from families of West African origin with a few from other ethnic groups. About one pupil in five is at an early stage of learning English and a similar proportion has special educational needs. Many pupils come from relatively disadvantaged backgrounds.

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

* Raise the quality of some aspects of teaching, making better use of assessment and increasing the pace of lessons, particularly in mathematics.

* Improve pupils' concentration and listening skills to help them make faster progress.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching and learning are satisfactory. The teaching of the youngest pupils is good but the teaching in some older classes has been affected by staffing difficulties. The best teaching was seen in Year 6. The school has worked hard to minimise the impact of staff disruptions but nevertheless they have hampered the progress of some pupils.

The best teaching is lively and interesting. Pupils are very keen to succeed and are eager to share what they have learned. In one class pupils applauded spontaneously when a classmate read out a very engaging letter. In the less effective lessons, the pace of work is slower, pupils' concentration is not as good and they do not achieve as much. Teaching assistants are well trained and support learning effectively, particularly for pupils with learning difficulties or those at an early stage of learning English. Teachers keep records of pupils' achievement systematically, but this information is not used consistently enough to plan more challenging work. Similarly, some marking is very good and gives pupils a clear indication of what they need to do to improve, but this is not consistent across the school.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The school provides a good curriculum and changes are being planned to improve it further. The curriculum is enriched for older pupils, through the teaching of French and this will be extended to younger pupils from September 2006. Pupils' ICT skills are developed systematically and used well. A good range of visits and visitors are used effectively to widen and enrich pupils' experience. Good initiatives promote healthy lifestyles and pupils are to benefit from specialist teaching in tennis and dance. The good range of after school clubs are well attended. These include sports activities, computer club and music. Very good opportunities are provided for pupils to go on residential visits. In Year 4 they go to the Isle of Wight and in Year 6 they visit France. Activities are planned which help promote team building and pupils' interpersonal skills.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

Pupils' care and welfare have a high priority. Adults know the pupils well and treat them as individuals. The school succeeds in creating a safe environment where pupils know that they can trust adults and go to them for help should they need to. Procedures for risk assessments and child protection are secure and well understood by staff. The provision for personal, social and health education supports pupils well, including those who are more vulnerable. Teachers deploy teaching assistants effectively to help pupils having particular learning difficulties make progress in lessons. Where appropriate, the school also uses outside agencies successfully to support these pupils. Assessment of pupils' achievement is improving and in some classes is used well to set targets, but this is not consistent enough across the school. The school keeps parents well informed about their children's progress. Most parents are happy with the level of consultation but a few do not feel that they are sufficiently involved.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection

Pupils

We really enjoyed meeting you and listening to your views and ideas about the school. You were polite, friendly and were keen to let us know how much you like school. Thank you for your help during our time with you.

We think that many things about your school are good. Your attendance is excellent, you behave well, want to learn and join enthusiastically in lots of interesting activities. You know that a healthy lifestyle is important and how to stay safe. You learn to take responsibility for yourselves and others and the work of the school council in helping to improve the playground facilities in the school is impressive. The adults are good at caring for you and you trust them.

Teachers and other adults want you to do well, and in many lessons expect you to work hard and achieve high standards, but we think that some of you, particularly the older pupils, could be making faster progress and achieving higher standards, especially in mathematics. This means that we think that the education you are receiving is satisfactory. The leaders of the school know that some of you could be doing better. They are working together to see that teachers use what they know about your progress to plan lessons which will challenge you to achieve higher standards. You could also help by concentrating better and listening more carefully in lessons.

Yours sincerely

Grace Marriott

Lead inspector