

# St John's Walworth Church of England Primary School

Inspection report

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	100831
<b>Local Authority</b>	Southwark
<b>Inspection number</b>	276400
<b>Inspection dates</b>	12–13 July 2006
<b>Reporting inspector</b>	Nick Butt

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

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<b>Type of school</b>	Primary
<b>School category</b>	Voluntary aided
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	4–11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number on roll</b>	
School	
<b>Appropriate authority</b>	The governing body
<b>Chair</b>	Father John Walker Mr Keith Fox
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	Not previously inspected
<b>School address</b>	Larcom Street London SE17 1NQ
<b>Telephone number</b>	02077034920
<b>Fax number</b>	02077038880

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## Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

## Description of the school

This average-sized primary school serves an inner city community which is part of the Elephant and Castle regeneration area. One quarter of pupils are of White British Heritage. The largest minority ethnic group is Black African, representing almost one half of pupils. Almost one in three pupils speak English as an additional language, the main one being Yoruba. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is high. One third of pupils are eligible for free school meals, which is well above average. The school draws children from many pre-school settings. It has Training School status and works with many student teachers.

## 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

- \* Improve the monitoring of the progress of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities so that staff can raise their achievement even more
- \* Raise standards in science by providing more opportunities for pupils to perform investigations.

## Achievement and standards

Grade:

### Personal development and well-being

Grade:

### Quality of provision

#### Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching and learning are good. This enables all pupils to make good progress in the curriculum and in their personal development. Time is used particularly well for learning because teachers are well prepared and organised. Planning is effective and concise, clearly showing how the many learning assistants will be used and what the specific aim of each lesson will be. In an outstanding lesson, pupils in Year 4 wrote headlines based on news articles. The teacher inspired them and chose material that she knew would interest them, such as the World Cup. In lessons that are only satisfactory, teachers do not pace lessons so well, and do not give pupils enough opportunities to think for themselves. Pupils with learning difficulties are successfully supported by well trained learning assistants. Pupils who learn English as an additional language receive effective individual support and are included well in classes. Assessment is good and is used well to adapt teaching to meet the individual needs of most learners. All the pupils benefit from the refurbished buildings and new corridors. Although some classrooms are still small, learning is no longer interrupted by people having to pass through them to get somewhere else.

#### Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The curriculum is good. It is broad and balanced and meets all national requirements. The provision for English, mathematics and information and communication technology is good. The school recognises the need for pupils to undertake more of their own investigations in science. Pupils find the effective and imaginative links that are made between subjects, such as art and personal and social development, particularly interesting. The way the curriculum is enriched through special projects, visits and visitors is outstanding. Pupils take part in concerts and conferences, design Christmas cards for a local business and write to the council about improving the environment. The curriculum contributes very well to pupils' healthy lifestyles by including a study of food and diet and very good programme for physical education. It is well adapted to meet the needs of all pupils and celebrates their diverse cultures.

## **Care, guidance and support**

### **Grade:**

Care, guidance and support are good. All statutory requirements are met and effective procedures for safeguarding pupils are in place. The home-school liaison officer plays a valuable role in supporting families. Pupils feel safe in the playground, which is of very limited size, because several adults are always there to guide and support their behaviour and games. Pupils are vulnerable to the sun however, when working or playing outside, because shade is so limited. Pupils are guided well in their learning. They know how well they are progressing through discussions with staff and good marking of work. Clear targets effectively help pupils to focus on their future progress in writing but targets are used less consistently in other subjects. Pupils are successfully developing their understanding of the world of work and possible career paths through some strong links with local businesses.

## **Leadership and management**

### **Grade:**

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

Many thanks for giving us such a warm welcome to your school. We enjoyed meeting you and discussing your views about the school. We agree with you that it is a good school and that there are lots of exciting things for you to do.

These are some of the things we like about your school: \* The way you make good progress in your learning\* The interesting and fun lessons that you enjoy\* The way you behave well in class and around the school\* Your knowledge and understanding of healthy lifestyles and all the exercise you get to do in physical education lessons\* The way the staff care for you and are there when you need them\* The strong Christian ethos of the school and its links with the church\* The many projects that you get involved in with people outside the school such as the council and local businesses.

You reach high standards in reading and writing, but we feel you could do better in science. In the past you have not done so many experiments, but now you have the science room we know you are able to get more involved in your learning. Those of you who find learning more difficult are helped well to make progress. We think the school should be keeping an eye on this more often, so that they know all about the quality of the support you receive. We are sure your teachers will be keen to hear from you how well you think you are doing. Thank you once again for being so friendly. We did enjoy visiting your school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. N. Butt,

Lead Inspector.