

# St John's CofE Primary School

## Inspection report

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	107315
<b>Local Authority</b>	Bradford
<b>Inspection number</b>	287794
<b>Inspection dates</b>	16–17 July 2007
<b>Reporting inspector</b>	Gill Hepworth

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>	Foundation
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	3–11
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number on roll</b>	
School	485
<b>Appropriate authority</b>	The governing body
<b>Chair</b>	Canon Gordon Dey
<b>Headteacher</b>	Mrs Gloria Gott
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	10 June 2002
<b>School address</b>	Dawson Lane Bierley Bradford West Yorkshire BD4 6JF
<b>Telephone number</b>	01274 681959
<b>Fax number</b>	01274 681931

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## Introduction

The inspection was carried out by three Additional Inspectors.

## Description of the school

This is a larger than average primary school situated in an area of social and economic disadvantage. Eligibility for free school meals is above average. It is an extremely popular school and numbers are increasing. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is above average. Most pupils are of White British origin, but there are a significant number of pupils from a range of other ethnic backgrounds. The school holds the Healthy Schools Award, Basic Skills Award and holds Investors in Pupils and Investors in People status.

## Key for inspection grades

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

## Overall effectiveness of the school

### Grade: 1

Words alone cannot do justice to this outstanding school. It truly lives up to its motto of 'believe and succeed'. It is a haven where every child really matters. Its success stems from its strong Christian ethos and the outstanding leadership and management. The charismatic headteacher and the senior leadership team form a great partnership and set high standards in the continual drive for improvement. All staff are, without exception, highly motivated and passionate about the school and contribute effectively in providing the best for each individual pupil. Governors also play their part in the success of the school by providing strong support and challenge. All aspects of the school's work are rigorously checked by the senior staff. There is no complacency as the school builds on its strengths to improve standards and achievement even further. The school has been slightly modest in evaluating some aspects of its work because of its established culture of high expectations.

The quality of teaching is outstanding. Learning experiences are rich, diverse and exciting. As a result pupils are highly motivated, happy in their learning and achieve exceptionally well. In the Foundation Stage children make exceptional progress because of the excellent provision. On entry to Nursery, children's skills are well below those expected for their age and by the end of Year 6 standards are above average. All groups of pupils make outstanding progress relative to their starting point. Rigorous tracking of progress is central to their achievement. Consequently, those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities benefit from excellent provision and support. Marking is good overall. There is exemplary practice in telling pupils exactly how well they are doing and what they need to do to improve.

The curriculum meets the needs of all pupils. Imaginative links are made between subjects bringing a relevance and excitement to learning. The wide range of learning opportunities offered includes French and strong attention is given to creativity through the arts, including drama and music.

Pupils are appreciative of the outstanding care, guidance and support they receive. Their response to the teachers' high expectations is seen in the excellent attitudes to learning and exemplary behaviour. Pupils are friendly and polite. They feel safe in school and are confident that their teachers will help them if they have a problem. Pupils' contribution to the school and wider community is excellent. The choir are wonderful ambassadors for the school, for example, when singing to older people and the Rotary Club. The atmosphere in the Leavers' Celebration and Award Ceremony was buzzing with excitement and it was a delight to see so many parents attending to share their children's achievements and taking an interest in their learning.

St John's Church of England Primary is a happy school and prides itself on its friendliness and warmth. It is easy to see why places are in demand: it is a vibrant place to be and very successful in getting the best out of people. One parent voiced the views of many, 'Sending my child to St John's is the best decision I made. If I could keep my child in St John's for the rest of their school years, I would.' Adults gain much pleasure out of working here and seeing pupils flourish both socially and academically. With this in mind, the school has made excellent progress since the last inspection. It meets its aims extremely well in providing the best experiences that can possibly be offered for every pupil and has excellent capacity to improve.

### What the school should do to improve further

There are no significant issues for improvement.

## **Achievement and standards**

### **Grade: 1**

Pupils' achievement is outstanding. Children enter Nursery with skills that are well below those expected for their age. Many have poor number and writing skills. They make excellent progress in the Foundation Stage and are well prepared for Year 1. In Years 1 to 6 all pupils continue to make excellent progress so that, by the time they leave school at the end of Year 6, they reach standards in English, mathematics and science that are above average. Pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities also achieve highly. The inspection evidence indicates that the school is correct in predicting that its challenging targets for 2008 will be met.

## **Personal development and well-being**

### **Grade: 1**

Pupils' personal development is outstanding. As many parents commented, pupils achieve far more than just reaching good academic standards. Pupils are respected and nurtured. They think it is good to be a pupil at this school because, 'we feel safe, and when we leave St John's we know how to respect other people and so we earn respect ourselves.' Expectations of pupils' behaviour and personal development are very high. Pupils know this and respond accordingly by always giving of their best. The weekly prayer meetings and assemblies are spiritual occasions and make a significant contribution to their excellent spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The nurture of pupils' creative talents results in them developing a real sense of self-worth that increases confidence and raises aspirations. Pupils are proud of the Healthy Schools status and acknowledge 'The Fitness Trail' as one of the highlights of school. Parents are astounded by their children's personal development and feel 'no other school could give them the skills and abilities to stand them in such good stead when they start their secondary education'.

## **Quality of provision**

### **Teaching and learning**

#### **Grade: 1**

The outstanding quality of teaching and learning enables all pupils to achieve as well as they can. The development of positive attitudes to learning ensures that pupils are fully engaged, interested and keen to do well. Teachers plan lessons very well and make sure that activities are organised to meet the needs of all the pupils. The school keeps meticulous records of how well pupils are doing and uses the information to set challenging targets and to provide a wide range of extra support for pupils who may need it. Lessons are made fun through the use of interesting resources and are maintained at a good pace. Skilful questioning helps the pupils to promote their thinking skills. All pupils are given many opportunities to talk with partners and in groups and, as a result, are confident to speak to the class. Associate staff have a very high level of expertise and support individuals and groups, ensuring all achieve as well as they can. High expectations are very evident in the marking of pupils' work. Only the best quality is accepted and teachers take time to explain to pupils how their work can be improved.

## **Curriculum and other activities**

### **Grade: 1**

The curriculum is outstanding because it is innovative, rich, exciting and relevant. 'It's a really great school and offers so much.' enthused a Year 6 pupil when she was discussing her work. The curriculum has been adapted to meet the needs of all pupils. The basic skills of literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT) are promoted very well. The linking of subjects through whole school themes helps pupils to understand how different subjects relate together through exciting activities. The introduction of French and the use of specialist teachers in the arts and physical education enriches pupils' learning. Extra-curricular clubs after school and a residential visit for pupils in Year 6 make a major contribution to pupils' well-being and enjoyment in learning.

## **Care, guidance and support**

### **Grade: 1**

The care, guidance and support that pupils receive are outstanding. Pupils flourish as a result of the numerous intervention strategies that support them both emotionally and academically. The school fully meets all requirements for the safeguarding of pupils. Through continual monitoring and positive encouragement, staff gain a very keen awareness of the needs of all individuals. The quality of academic guidance at all levels is outstanding. It uses the information to set challenging targets and to provide extra support for pupils who may need it. All necessary procedures to ensure the continuing health and safety of pupils are maintained in a highly efficient manner.

## **Leadership and management**

### **Grade: 1**

Leadership and management are outstanding at all levels. The leadership of the headteacher is inspirational. She is supported by an excellent leadership team. The strong team spirit ensures everyone's contribution is valued. All staff throughout school relish opportunities to contribute to their own development and to that of the school. Excellent monitoring and evaluation of the school's work ensure that pupils achieve extremely well, as well as forming the basis of many new ideas for improvement. Staff successfully encourage parents to be part of the life and learning of the school and welcome parental views as an integral part of the school's development. Effective deployment of associate staff plays a significant part in every child achieving as well as they can. Governance is excellent. Governors know the school well and take a full part in its development. They have a very clear understanding of the school and, in partnership with the staff, they continually strive to provide the very best for all pupils.

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## Annex A

## Inspection judgements

<i>Key to judgements: grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory, and grade 4 inadequate</i>	<b>School Overall</b>
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### Overall effectiveness

<b>How effective, efficient and inclusive is the provision of education, integrated care and any extended services in meeting the needs of learners?</b>	1
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being?	1
The quality and standards in the Foundation Stage	1
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	1
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	1
Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes

### Achievement and standards

<b>How well do learners achieve?</b>	1
The standards <sup>1</sup> reached by learners	2
How well learners make progress, taking account of any significant variations between groups of learners	1
How well learners with learning difficulties and disabilities make progress	1

### Personal development and well-being

<b>How good is the overall personal development and well-being of the learners?</b>	1
The extent of learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	1
The behaviour of learners	1
The attendance of learners	2
How well learners enjoy their education	1
The extent to which learners adopt safe practices	1
The extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which learners make a positive contribution to the community	1
How well learners develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being	1

### The quality of provision

<b>How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of the learners' needs?</b>	1
<b>How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners?</b>	1
<b>How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?</b>	1

<sup>1</sup> Grade 1 - Exceptionally and consistently high; Grade 2 - Generally above average with none significantly below average; Grade 3 - Broadly average to below average; Grade 4 - Exceptionally low.



## Annex A

**Leadership and management**

<b>How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?</b>	1
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	1
How effectively performance is monitored, evaluated and improved to meet challenging targets	1
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can	1
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	1
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	1
Do procedures for safeguarding learners meet current government requirements?	Yes
Does this school require special measures?	No
Does this school require a notice to improve?	No

## **Text from letter to pupils explaining the findings of the inspection**

It was a pleasure to visit your school. Like you, I really enjoyed spending time at St John's. I agree with you and your parents that it is an outstanding school. These are the main things I found out about your school:

- you work hard and make excellent progress
- your behaviour, attitudes to work and the way you care about each other are superb. You clearly know how to live healthily and safely
- the teachers and associate staff work really hard to make sure you do well in your lessons
- all the adults in the school care for you exceptionally well
- you are given a good range of learning activities and it was a pleasure to see how much you enjoy school
- you have an excellent headteacher who, together with the staff, has worked hard to make the school very successful.

We know that you agree that yours is an outstanding school because you told us all what a great place it is. Your job now will be to help the school to continue to be outstanding by enjoying your learning and always doing your best.

Thank you again for your help and the members of the inspection team wish you all well for the future.