

St Margaret's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	104089
Local Authority	Solihull
Inspection number	308506
Inspection date	18 June 2008
Reporting inspector	Timothy Bristow 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	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	240
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Tony Nicklin
Headteacher	Jane Martin
Date of previous school inspection	8 March 2004
School address	Richmond Road Olton Solihull B92 7RR
Telephone number	01217 065020
Fax number	01217 072031

Age group	3-11
Inspection date	18 June 2008
Inspection number	308506

© Crown copyright 2008

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial educational purposes, provided that the information quoted is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Further copies of this report are obtainable from the school. Under the Education Act 2005, the school must provide a copy of this report free of charge to certain categories of people. A charge not exceeding the full cost of reproduction may be made for any other copies supplied.

Introduction

The inspection was carried out by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors. The inspector evaluated the overall effectiveness of the school and investigated the following issues: the quality of teaching, the curriculum, the progress made by pupils, the quality of care, guidance and support, and pupils' personal development and well-being, gathering evidence from discussions with the headteacher, senior staff, governors, parents, pupils, and from the parental questionnaires. Lessons were observed, the relevant school documents were scrutinised and samples of pupils' current and previous work were examined. Other aspects of the school's work were not investigated in detail, but the inspector found no evidence to suggest that the school's own assessments, as given in its self-evaluation form, were not justified, and these have been included where appropriate in this report.

Description of the school

St Margaret's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is larger than average. The proportions of pupils from minority ethnic groups and those who speak English as an additional language are below average. The proportions of pupils who are eligible for free school meals and those who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities are below average. Pupils benefit from 'Kidzone' that provides extended services before and after normal school hours.

Key for inspection grades

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

Overall effectiveness of the school

Grade: 2

St Margaret's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary is a good school with some outstanding features. The outstanding leadership of the headteacher, combined with excellent procedures for checking the work of the school, has led to rapid improvements in provision in recent years. Pupils' personal development and well-being are outstanding. Outstanding spiritual, moral, cultural and social development and enjoyment of school underpin their excellent behaviour. These are nurtured by excellent care, guidance and support and a good curriculum.

Pupils' achievement is good and standards are above average. By Year 2, the national test results for 2007 show that standards have risen considerably in recent years. Pupils make good progress in Key Stage 2. In mathematics in 2007, and in most years, results are exceptionally high. The proportion of pupils who attain the higher level in English, mathematics and science is above average. Pupils who have moderate learning difficulties with English and mathematics, as well as those who have more specific difficulties, make good and often better progress than their peers.

Pupils thoroughly enjoy coming to school and talk with great enthusiasm about their lessons and the many enriching activities they take part in. As one pupil reported, summing up the views of most others, 'It is a great school and a great place to learn.' Consequently, attendance rates are above average. The school takes great care to foster pupils' spiritual, moral and social education. In Collective Worship, there is a wonderful sense of belonging to part of a large and caring family in which all are respected. Most pupils demonstrate excellent attitudes to learning. They are very polite and friendly to each other and to visitors to the school. Pupils have a responsible attitude to their own safety. They report that incidents of bullying are very rare and they talk confidently about how to get help if they need it. Pupils' development of a healthy lifestyle is good, supported by the many opportunities offered by the school for physical activity. Pupils make a good contribution to the school community, for example by organising fund raising activities for the charities they have decided to support. Pupils' good basic skills and their outstanding behaviour mean they are well prepared for the next stage of their education and future lives.

Teaching is good overall. Lessons are well structured and care is taken to ensure that pupils understand the purpose of their work. Relationships between adults and pupils are very good. Teachers make good use of assessment information to pitch work at the correct level for most pupils. The curriculum offers pupils a very strong Christian ethos whilst showing great respect for other religions that underpins their excellent spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Many enriching opportunities and school clubs, in which most pupils participate, contribute to the great enjoyment pupils experience from their time in school. For example, Year 6 pupils recall with very great enthusiasm the recent residential visit in which they all participated. There are satisfactory links between subjects so that in some lessons, pupils have the opportunity to practise the skills they have learnt in English and mathematics lessons.

Pupils and parents greatly appreciate the extremely caring and nurturing ethos of the school. As one parent reported, 'As a parent, there is nothing more in the world I could wish for than to have happy thriving children, and St Margaret's plays a huge part in that!' The school provides outstanding support for pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, creating excellent partnerships with outside agencies and parents. Procedures for health and safety and child protection are rigorously applied. The academic care, guidance and support given to pupils are

good. Good marking and the personal targets pupils have ensure that they know the steps they need to take to improve their work.

Based on an extremely accurate evaluation of the school's strengths and weaknesses, the excellent school improvement plan gives clear direction for school development. This has ensured that improvements have been rapid and consistently applied, including, for example, the considerable rise in standards at Key Stage 1. Consequently, the school has demonstrated that it has outstanding capacity for future improvement. Other leaders in school demonstrate that they make a very effective contribution to the work of the school. Governors are knowledgeable and supportive. They have taken full advantage of training so that they are well prepared to hold the school to account for its work. The overwhelming majority of parents support and trust the work of the school.

Effectiveness of the Foundation Stage

Grade: 3

The Foundation Stage has experienced considerable upheaval recently because of a number of staff changes and the opening this term of the new Nursery classroom. Most children enter the Nursery with skills that are above those normally expected for their age. They make satisfactory progress and the proportion of children that reach the expected goals for learning at the end of Reception is above average. The Foundation Stage classrooms provide a caring environment in which children are happy and confident to engage with the activities they enjoy. Strong leadership is ensuring rapid improvements to teaching and learning and the curriculum, which are satisfactory. However, the links between teaching and the curriculum in the Nursery and Reception classes are not established well enough to ensure that children make as much progress as they should.

What the school should do to improve further

- Improve the provision in the Foundation Stage by establishing closer links between the Nursery and Reception classes.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints about school inspection', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Annex A

Inspection judgements

Key to judgements: grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory, and grade 4 inadequate	School Overall
---	----------------

Overall effectiveness

How effective, efficient and inclusive is the provision of education, integrated care and any extended services in meeting the needs of learners?	2
Effective steps have been taken to promote improvement since the last inspection	Yes
How well does the school work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being?	1
The effectiveness of the Foundation Stage	3
The capacity to make any necessary improvements	1

Achievement and standards

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

Personal development and well-being

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

The quality of provision

How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of the learners' needs?	2
How well do the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of learners?	2
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	1

¹ 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

How effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?	2
How effectively leaders and managers at all levels set clear direction leading to improvement and promote high quality of care and education	2
How effectively leaders and managers use challenging targets to raise standards	2
The effectiveness of the school's self-evaluation	1
How well equality of opportunity is promoted and discrimination tackled so that all learners achieve as well as they can	2
How effectively and efficiently resources, including staff, are deployed to achieve value for money	2
The extent to which governors and other supervisory boards discharge their responsibilities	2
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

19 June 2008

Dear Children

Inspection of St Margaret's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Olton, B92 7RR

Thank you for the help you gave me when I visited your school. You made me feel very welcome. If you remember, I came to look at the work that you were doing and to talk to you and your teachers. I enjoyed meeting you and thought that the behaviour of most of you was outstanding.

You were extremely friendly and polite. You are very kind and caring towards each other. You were excellent ambassadors for the school. I was pleased to find out that you all enjoy school so much. You were very enthusiastic about your lessons and clearly enjoy the relationship you have with the adults in school. I know that you work hard and do well in your lessons. This means that you reach standards that are above the levels typically found in other schools.

Having examined all the evidence I decided that you go to a good school with some outstanding features. Your excellent headteacher and the school governors have worked very hard to give you a good education. Your teachers and teaching assistants take excellent care of you so that even those of you who find some lessons difficult are doing well. I also think there is something that the school could do better.

- Make sure the Nursery and Reception classes work more closely together.

You already make a super contribution to the life of the school and I hope that you continue to do so.

Yours sincerely

Tim Bristow Her Majesty's Inspector



19 June 2008

Dear Children

**Inspection of St Margaret's Church of England Voluntary Aided
Primary School, Olton, B92 7RR**

Thank you for the help you gave me when I visited your school. You made me feel very welcome. If you remember, I came to look at the work that you were doing and to talk to you and your teachers. I enjoyed meeting you and thought that the behaviour of most of you was outstanding.

You were extremely friendly and polite. You are very kind and caring towards each other. You were excellent ambassadors for the school. I was pleased to find out that you all enjoy school so much. You were very enthusiastic about your lessons and clearly enjoy the relationship you have with the adults in school. I know that you work hard and do well in your lessons. This means that you reach standards that are above the levels typically found in other schools.

Having examined all the evidence I decided that you go to a good school with some outstanding features. Your excellent headteacher and the school governors have worked very hard to give you a good education. Your teachers and teaching assistants take excellent care of you so that even those of you who find some lessons difficult are doing well.

I also think there is something that the school could do better.

- Make sure the Nursery and Reception classes work more closely together.

You already make a super contribution to the life of the school and I hope that you continue to do so.

Yours sincerely

Tim Bristow
Her Majesty's Inspector