

St James' Church of England Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	100829
Local Authority	Southwark
Inspection number	276398
Inspection dates	10–11 November 2005
Reporting inspector	Derek Watts

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	5–11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number on roll	
School	
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Mr Simon Hughes Ms Karen Willis
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	Old Jamaica Road Bermondsey London SE16 4SU
Telephone number	02072373111
Fax number	02072321849

Age group	5–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two additional inspectors.

Description of the school

St James' Church of England is a smaller than average size primary school with 202 pupils on roll. About 55 percent of pupils are from a white British background and about 20 percent are from a Black African background. The remainder are from a range of other ethnic backgrounds. About 13 percent of the school's pupil population have English as an additional language but only a few are at an early stage of English language acquisition. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is above average. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs is in line with the national average. Pupils' attainment on entry to the Reception class is below average. A higher than usual proportion of pupils join and leave the school other than at the normal starting and leaving times. A new head teacher took up the post in September 2005.

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

The school has a clear and well focused improvement plan and has made a good start on the following: * Raising all pupils' achievement from satisfactory to good. * Increasing the consistency of good teaching and learning. * Extending and developing the role of other leaders

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching and learning are satisfactory overall and matches the school's evaluation. Teaching and learning are good in Reception. Teaching here is lively and children are motivated by the interesting activities. There are examples of good teaching and learning in other year groups but this good practice is not consistent across the school. Teachers manage the pupils well and have established very good relationships. Lessons have clear learning objectives so that pupils know what they are to learn. Teachers' presentations are enhanced well by the recently installed computer linked whiteboards. Explanations, demonstrations and questioning are used well to promote learning. Teaching assistants effectively support pupils' learning particularly those with special educational needs. In a Year 3 English lesson, pupils had very good opportunities to work in pairs, taking turns in acting out an animal pose while the partner described the characteristics. A high quality demonstration by the teacher and teaching assistant beforehand successfully set the scene. This creative approach provided ideas for pupils to write animal poems which were vivid and lively. In other good lessons, activities were interesting and well matched to pupils' different abilities. The lessons progressed at a good pace and pupils made good progress. However, where teaching is satisfactory rather than good, the pace of learning is not as high. Furthermore, tasks are not always sufficiently well matched to pupils' different abilities and so they are not suitably challenged. Assessment and tracking procedures have been improved recently and the data is being used well to set individual learning targets in English and mathematics.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

The school believes that its curriculum is satisfactory and inspectors agree. Pupils are offered the full national curriculum with an effective personal and social education programme. Provision for English, mathematics and science is improving. There is a good range of extra-curricular activities and visits, including a breakfast club, an after-school club, sports clubs, and visits to places of interest such as Trafalgar Square to celebrate England's cricket success in the recent Ashes Series. There are plans for a residential trip next year.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

Care, guidance and support are good. The school is a very cheerful place with the pupils learning and playing happily. This is because they feel safe and secure. One Year 6 pupil said, andquot;I love it here, I just don't want to leaveandquot;. Pupils gain in confidence as their needs are considered and respected by all staff in the school. Every pupil is known and treated as an individual and this contributes strongly to the harmonious and welcoming atmosphere. Health and safety routines and risk assessments are good. Child protection procedures are thorough and well-understood and teachers have received appropriate training. Pupils are aware of their targets for improvement. Pupils with special needs, and those for whom English is an additional language, receive good support.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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

Thank you so much for welcoming us into your school and for showing us your work. We really enjoyed talking to you. We would like to tell you what we found out about your school.

* Children in Reception have settled into school well and are doing good work.* You enjoy school and take part in activities well.* Children at St James' are friendly, polite and most are very well behaved.* Most of you get on very well with other pupils and adults.* The head teacher and staff make sure you are safe and well cared for.* You all look very smart in your burgundy and gold school uniform.* There is a good range of clubs and visits which you clearly enjoy.* Your new head teacher is doing a good job and has made good changes to help you achieve even more.

There are a few things that could be better:* All teachers should try to make sure work is not too hard or too easy for you* Some groups of children are doing better than others but your head teacher and staff are working hard to make sure you all do well.Finally, we would like to thank you once again for all your help. We wish you well in the future.