

**STATUTORY  
INSPECTION OF  
ANGLICAN SCHOOLS**



Name & address of School: **St Barnabas & St Philip's C of E Primary School**  
58 Earls Court Road, London, W8 6EJ

Diocese of London

Date of inspection: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007

Type of School: Voluntary Aided Primary

Headteacher: Mr Chris Doyle

Local authority: Kensington & Chelsea

Date of last inspection: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2001

School's unique reference number: 100493

SIAS Inspector: Patrick Regan (NS 68)

**School context**

St Barnabas & St Philip's is an oversubscribed school serving a very diverse ethnic minority community. English is an additional language for almost half of the pupils. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is above average.

**The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Barnabas and St Philip as a Church of England school are outstanding.**

St Barnabas And St Philip's is an outstanding church school where there is a clear Christian vision and ethos driven by a committed Christian headteacher and the Chair of Governors. This is enhanced by the excellent relationships that exist between all members of the school community.

**Established strengths**

- Outstanding leadership and management of a Church school.
- The excellent relationships that exist between all members of the school community.
- The importance given to collective worship and involvement of the clergy.
- Parental involvement and awareness of the school as a Christian institution.

**Focus for development**

- To utilise the knowledge of the clergy and parish team as a resource in the teaching of RE.

**The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners**

The Christian ethos of the school is very strong and permeates every aspect of school life. Pupils from all cultures feel valued and special, they feel safe and are happy and confident. The school uses its Christian character to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils. Their needs are very well provided for through a differentiated creative curriculum, support and a structured monitoring and assessment system. Diversity is celebrated through multi-cultural activities and events, displays and training for the whole school community to promote and celebrate culture, tradition, language, customs and history. Governors and clergy provide good support at every level. Pupils know that their views are taken seriously. 'We really feel that teachers listen to us' was the response from one pupil. The children are extremely well behaved and courteous and demonstrate great pride in their school. There is a very orderly and relaxed atmosphere around the school. Relationships

between all partners in the school are excellent; staff are excellent role models for the children. The clergy input into the life of the school emphasises its Church of England status and parents and children comment on this frequently and positively. There is a high level of parental involvement in school events. They are highly supportive and there are excellent communication mechanisms evident through meetings, coffee mornings, and workshops. Parents speak highly of the Christian character of the school and the quality of teaching and communication. They feel that the school is a 'happy and safe place'.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.**

Worship has an outstanding impact on the school community; it occupies a place of vital importance in the life of the school and is a fundamental aspect of its Christian character. The prospectus, mission statement and worship policy explain the importance of worship as an integral part of school life. Staff and clergy lead worship on a rotational basis, parents and carers are invited to the weekly sharing assembly. The headteacher meets with clergy regularly to plan worship and whole school services. Major Christian festivals are celebrated in each of the two churches. A year 6 leaver's service is held in July at St Barnabas Church when the church community organises hospitality and entertainment for pupils, staff and parents after the service. All pupils behave appropriately and listen well during worship, they participate enthusiastically, and they sing hymns, pray and reflect. Governors attend worship and church services and report them to be 'thought provoking'. Parents speak about specific worship that has taken place and the positive impact it has on their children such as being able to retell parables told by Jesus and the message it has for their lives.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is good**

School staff are enthusiastic and committed to Religious Education in the school and it is well co-ordinated. RE is given a high profile in the school and standards are in line with other core subjects. Christianity dominates and the RE scheme of work provides pupils with a good understanding of other faiths and practices and to recognise and respect common beliefs. Teachers plan lessons well and are well prepared to deliver RE lessons. They have developed resources and artefacts and use visits to places of worship to support and enhance the learning and understanding of other faiths. Class and school displays provide a focal point and enrich learning experiences for pupils and promote discussion. Pupils make good progress across the school in both attainment targets and this is well assessed. Good use is made of teaching assistants to aid assessment. Pupils' responses are positive in all lessons. The behaviour of all pupils in class is extremely good; they enjoy RE and take a pride in the presentation of their work and work co-operatively with each other. They are good listeners and enjoy discussion groups. When studying the Easter story they were encouraged to reflect on how the family and friends of Jesus felt about his death and resurrection.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding**

The headteacher, Governors and staff have a shared vision for the school and this is apparent in documentation and practice. The headteacher is a committed Christian and excellent role model who works closely with the chair of governors and deputy head in promoting the Christian character of the school. Governors regularly visit the school to attend meetings and observe lessons. There is tremendous input from the clergy on the governing body and they all make time to integrate themselves into the life of the school regularly meeting with staff, parents and pupils. Staff report that school is 'a lovely place to work in' and the relationship that exists between all members of the school community is excellent. Parents and carers are fully involved in the life of the school. A parent/carer prayer group is established and meets regularly in the school. The school website constantly refers to the school as a Christian organisation that 'strives to produce independent learners who are confident in making informed spiritual and moral decisions'.