



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Name of school: **St. Jude's CE Primary School**

Regent Road
Herne Hill
London
SE24 OEL

Diocese: **Southwark**

Local authority: Lambeth

Dates of inspection: 24 and 25 June 2013

Date of last inspection: June 2008

School's unique reference number: 100616

Headteacher: Florence Wilson

Inspector's name and number: Daphne Gibbs 210

School context

St. Jude's CE is a one form entry primary school serving a culturally diverse community in the borough of Lambeth. Over 86% of pupils are from ethnic minority backgrounds with Black Caribbean as the majority group although the school population is changing racially and socially. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals and those identified as having special educational needs is above the national average. Approximately 65% of pupils come from church families.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St. Jude's CE Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding

St. Jude's has created a calm, praying family atmosphere where the pupils are encircled and infused in the love of God. Collective worship and Religious Education (RE) confirm and enrich this environment. The leadership and management are passionate that this is sustained no matter what difficulties may present themselves and they share their values with the whole school community.

Established strengths

- the all-encompassing calm distinctive Christian character of the school which enables learners to achieve high standards academically and grow spiritually, morally, socially and culturally
- the leadership and management who lead by Christian example and are determined collectively to do the very best for all learners at St. Jude's
- the restructured creative RE curriculum which enables learners to speak about religious ideas and faith

Focus for development

- increase pupil participation and decision making in collective worship so that they feel they are actively involved and can develop personal spirituality and a deeper understanding and appreciation of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- encourage even more community involvement in the life of the school so that talents can be used for the benefit of all learners and the vision and values of St. Jude's will reach further into the wider local area

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

St. Jude's subscribes to the belief 'that everyone is created in the image of God and is of infinite worth' as stated in an attachment to a recent newsletter. The pupils definitely think this is so. They say 'you are taught to believe everyone is perfect in their own way'; 'God is behind you'. The school 'builds up confidence' and one pupil particularly appreciated this 'after all I have been through'. Learners appreciate this Christian distinctiveness, rooted in the teaching of the Bible which they receive, is the reason they do well. Documentation shows achievement is excellent and above levels predicted from low starting points. Learners are specifically targeted and supported. Those with special educational needs, vulnerable pupils and underachieving ethnic minority groups make better progress than their peers nationally. The pupils are exposed to a broad creative curriculum and a wide variety of exciting after school activities from steel pans to Bible club raising aspirations and leading to personal development and well-being. The pupils say they love to come to school because it is fun. Ofsted's performance data identifies attendance as being in the top 20% of all schools which confirms the readiness of pupils to attend St. Jude's. At the school they value determination, love, belonging, respect, selflessness, faith, thankfulness and honesty. These values are constantly reinforced within a Christian context and are understood by the pupils. They are in evidence in all they do. They form the basis of collective worship and RE so reinforcing and supporting the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of learners including those of other faith traditions and those of none. They are displayed around school and with particular dynamic impact in the hall and, as one pupil said, 'it shows visitors what our school really is'. Learners were heard to refer to these values in conversation and during RE lessons. Biblical texts illustrating the school's values are also on display and appear on the weekly newsletters. Relationships are strong and underpinned by the inclusive Christian character of St. Jude's which invites the school and wider communities to work together for the benefit of all learners regardless of their ability and background. Pupils particularly emphasised that 'all religions are welcomed'. A Muslim pupil proudly shared their experience of prayer with a younger class reminding them that what they said must be treated with respect.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is seen as 'hugely important. It gives cohesion. It is the anchor. The children can leave their baggage behind' say the governors. The pupils feel it 'brings everyone together' and 'makes me feel my whole life has changed'. All collective worship is distinctly Christian and closely integrated with RE. and sets the distinctive values of the school in their Christian context. Learners are familiar with a variety of Anglican forms of worship. Two RE lessons observed had powerful worship components encouraging reflection and prayer. The two acts of collective worship observed made many references to Christian values and biblical texts. There was some participation by the pupils, for example, role play. However, this was limited. Pupil involvement in collective worship should be increased and opportunities given to be part of the decision making process so that they can feel they are actively involved and can develop personal spirituality. Music is used as a powerful resource and even singing practice had a prayerful element. St. Jude's is open to and proactive in encouraging outside participation in collective worship resulting in a

beneficial variety of styles. The local Baptist Church and the Spinnaker Trust (a Christian support group for worship in schools) are regular visitors. The prayer life of St. Jude's is extremely strong and contributes to the spiritual development of all members of the school community. From reception to Year 6 learners freely express, through prayer, their thankfulness and feelings and ask God to support and protect them – 'God listens not to one person. He makes me feel heard' said one pupil. There is a growing understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit – 'God is not just the Creator – he is the spirit and always there' (Year 6 child) but the concept is not understood by the majority. The pupils acknowledge they are not the only group of people to benefit from prayer. Teachers also pray and they 'follow God's lead. He tells them what to do to help us'. Staff freely ask to be prayed for without embarrassment. The whole school community benefits from prayerful support. A young pupil died and all came together at a service in church. The staff and pupils still pray for the family.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

St. Jude's website tells the school and wider community that RE is 'an integral part in the context of the whole curriculum. It cannot be separated from the life of the school. Through religious studies we hope that children will develop spiritually in their knowledge of God and have a sense of awe and wonder about the created world'. This was confirmed during lessons observed and when talking to pupils. Standards in RE are consistently high and slightly above literacy and numeracy at more able levels. Monitoring shows progression year on year. The incumbent says the pupils have a 'high level of Christian literacy'. Outside visitors talk of the learner's biblical knowledge being very good. This was clearly observed in the high order responses of the pupils. The quality of teaching and learning is very good. The school has set a target to increase even further the number of outstanding lessons in RE and so enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners. The lessons observed were very good to outstanding full of rich content and higher order questioning. The learners expressed themselves clearly, relevantly and confidently. They find RE lessons 'fun and practical'. The focus for development from the last inspection (embed the recently adopted Southwark Diocesan scheme for RE within the school's creative curriculum; extend opportunities in the RE syllabus to reflect religions other than Christianity) have been fully implemented. A topic driven, broad, creative curriculum is now in place. This is constantly reviewed in light of feedback from staff and has led to further improvement. The learners spoke positively on several occasions about how much they enjoyed learning about other religions and what a benefit it would be to them in later life. Governors report that the changes to the curriculum have had a massive impact on progress. The RE coordinator has been in post for nine years. Her consistent calm commitment has had a great influence on the teaching of RE. She is well organised. She builds strong relationships with staff and provides effective induction for new teachers and support for others who need help and advice. She also listens to what the children have to say. This informs the future development of RE.

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

The Christian vision of St. Jude's is all-encompassing. It is explicit in documentation, on the website and in the actions of the strong Leadership and Management team. Policy and practice are embedded and there is a determination that challenges can be met because robust procedures are in place and Christian values are at the heart of all they do. There is a striving for excellence – knowing things are never quite good enough but pressing on in order to impact on pupil's personal, spiritual and academic development. There is an expectation that the school community will uphold the Christian vision – 'all families are expected to uphold the Christian ethos of the school' says the school's admission policy. Parents are consulted and their views respected. St. Jude's future target is to encourage even more community involvement so that talents can be used for the benefit of the children and the school's vision and values will reach further into the wider local area. The incumbent feels

that slowly over time he has been instrumental in creating a strong, diverse and experienced Governing Body. Governors now confidently demonstrate their understanding of the progress being made. They monitor closely, working in partnership with teachers and senior management and consulting with parents. There is a deep relationship between church and school. The incumbent has currently been prepared to take on the role of Chair of Governors whilst a replacement is found so that the integrity of the school's distinctiveness is maintained and safeguarded in the interim. Pupils visit St. Matthews to celebrate the main Christian festivals and representatives from other local churches lead collective worship and run the Bible Club. Links have been made with schools in Spain, Tenerife and Africa. Exchange visits have been arranged and expertise shared for the benefit of all pupils. Professional development is used to enhance the Christian character of the school. The Governing Body completed the Bishop's Certificate in 2012 which increased knowledge and understanding of their role and gave them confidence to be a 'critical friend'. Future staff changes and appointments are seen by the school as an exciting opportunity to acquire teachers 'rooted in faith' and to raise further the status of RE and enhance the Christian character of the school. The Leadership and Management have created an oasis at St. Jude's. The school certainly does exist 'to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within a Christian framework of values and beliefs' as its mission statement declares. The strong resolve that this situation will be maintained and enhanced means the school has the capacity to improve, develop and grow even more as a Church school.

SIAMS report June 2013 St. Jude's CE Primary School, Regent Road, Herne Hill, London SE24 OEL and location of school] [post code]