



# St John's Church of England Primary School



## Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

### Inspection Report

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School address	Crescent Road, Friern Barnet, London, N11 3LB
Headteacher	Graham Gunn
Type of School	Primary
Status	Voluntary Aided
Unique Reference Number	302 3307
Diocese	London
Local Authority	London Borough of Barnet
Date of last inspection	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2007

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Inspection date	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
National Society Inspector	Daniel Norris (NS 755)

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The Education Act 2005 (Section 48) requires the governing body or foundation governors of Church of England Schools to appoint a person to undertake the inspection of denominational education and collective worship in schools with a religious character. The inspection process follows a similar pattern to the new Ofsted inspection format.

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### **School context**

St John's C E Primary school in a one-form entry school in the London Borough of Barnet. The school provides part-time placements for 52 Nursery children. The school serves an increasingly diverse community. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is above average, as is the proportion of those who speak English as an additional language. Children come from a range of faith backgrounds but the number of families who attend St John's and other local Anglican churches is increasing. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is below the national average. The school has had stability of leadership for a significant period of time and the current Headteacher has been in post for 8 years. The school was judged to be outstanding at its last inspection.

### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St John's as a Church of England school are outstanding.**

The school has successfully maintained and further developed its distinctiveness and effectiveness since the last inspection. Capacity to develop further as a Church of England school is outstanding.

### **Established strengths**

- Enthusiastic, confident, polite and articulate children who are proud of their school.
- The outstanding leadership of the Headteacher and RE and worship leader.
- Highly effective Governors who challenge and support the school and the regular involvement of the clergy in the life of the school.
- The school's involvement in the local community and its international links that enhance children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding.
- A lively, creative and exciting RE curriculum that stimulates children and enables them to make excellent progress.

### **Focus for development**

There are no significant areas for development.

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

Children at St John's are extremely proud of their school and talk excitedly about the many inspiring opportunities they have to learn and develop their unique skills and talents. The school's curriculum and its wide range of extra curricular provision enable the children to broaden their horizons, challenge their assumptions and develop their interests whilst thoroughly enjoying their education. The school community is very welcoming and all children feel included and safe as part of the school family. Standards of behaviour in the school are consistently excellent and relationships between all members of the school community are warm and respectful. Children know that their views are respected and feel confident to express their opinions. The school's Christian values come alive as children have the opportunity to experience living in community together and reaching out to support the wider local and global communities. The school provides all children with the opportunity to be involved in the life of the local community and the opportunity to find out about a range of different parts of the world where the school has active links and partnerships. This involvement enables children to develop as caring and responsible citizens who are aware that they have brothers and sisters all around the world. The school environment makes a significant contribution to children's spiritual development. A particularly strong aspect of this is the role-play areas in the Early Years Foundation Stage that link to learning in RE and enable children to engage with stories from the bible in an imaginative and creative way. Teachers' effective planning ensures that pupils make excellent progress in their learning and that they develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. Standards of achievement of all pupils are outstanding and the school makes excellent provision for children to receive the support and challenge they need. Children leave the school well prepared for the challenges of secondary education and with a firm foundation of Christian values.

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

Worship is central to daily life at St John's and each school day begins and ends in prayer. All children, including those of other faiths feel that school worship is a special opportunity to be together, to reflect and to be inspired. Children enjoy taking part in daily acts of worship in school or at Church and there is also a strong recognition in the school that every aspect of a person's life can be offered as worship to God. An excellent example of this has been the development of the Christian understanding of service and 'washing the feet of others' and how this has been linked to the beliefs of other faiths. The impact that this theme had had on pupils was evident in a Year 6 RE lesson observed during the inspection. When challenged to design a building that would be pleasing to God, two pupils drew a homeless shelter and stated, 'Jesus was born in a stable and spent his time with the vulnerable'. Worship is planned and developed by a strategic group chaired by Father Paul who ensures that there is diversity, coherence and a solid biblical foundation to the programme of themes. Worship is significantly enhanced by the weekly presence of Father Paul and the time that he dedicates to developing this important aspect of school life. Teachers feel well supported to lead worship and are able to effectively develop the chosen themes in class worship. Opportunities for worship in class enable class teachers to personalise and tailor the chosen themes to the needs of their class and provide children with the opportunity to contribute more and to take the lead. The school ensures that it provides a broad experience of the diversity of the Anglican tradition and opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist have increased. Prayer has an important place in the life of the school and children enjoy writing prayers that are used in class prayer books and also write and lead prayers at parish lunches. Parents are invited to attend worship and children regularly lead acts of worship. Governors monitor and evaluate worship and children are consulted about their views. These evaluations are then acted upon when worship is planned for the future. Children feel that worship is always improving and they particularly enjoy singing and the opportunities they have to take the lead. The school has plans to consult more widely to ensure that its worship continues to inspire the daily living of all members of the school community.

### **The effectiveness of the Religious Education is outstanding**

Standards achieved in RE at the end of each key stage are well above average and in line with the very high levels of achievement in other curriculum areas. The quality of teaching in RE is consistently good and a considerable proportion of teaching is outstanding. This enables children to make extremely good progress. Children display consistently positive attitudes to the subject across the school and talk enthusiastically about what they have learned and RE lessons that they have enjoyed. One pupil enthusiastically commented, 'I love RE lessons, they give me the opportunity to really think and to give my point of view'. RE is very effectively led by an extremely dedicated and enthusiastic subject leader whose clear passion for the subject inspires both staff and children. Newly qualified teachers receive an excellent induction to teaching RE and feel well supported. The subject leader monitors RE lessons and provides staff with supportive feedback and guidance. RE is very well resourced. Since the last inspection a new scheme of work has been introduced that has reenergised RE, providing a more flexible and creative approach to curriculum delivery. There is an appropriate balance between learning about and from religion and between the teaching of Christianity and other world faiths. The curriculum is enriched with a range of visits and visitors. For example, Year 2 pupils were able to extremely effectively identify features of an Anglican church following a guided visit to St John's Church. Special RE weeks such as the Bible Story Week and the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible raise the profile of the subject and enrich pupils learning enabling them to focus in more detail on specific aspects of RE. Senior leaders regularly monitor samples of children's work. Teachers provide children with good quality feedback on their learning and work in RE is consistently well marked. A wide range of evidence is used for assessment and further development of this area is planned.

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

The Headteacher and the Governing Body have a very clear vision for the development of the school as a Christian school and have been extremely successful in realising it and ensuring that it is fruitful. Since the last inspection the focus of this vision has been to become more outward looking and to develop a strong sense of Christian community by ensuring that there has been significant involvement in the local community and links have been established in the wider global community. Children from the school support activities at the Church and a wide range of charitable organisations with both acts of service and charitable donations. The entire school community, who want to be part of the 'school family' and take advantage of the many opportunities it provides, shares this inspiring vision. The school has excellent links with the parish Church and an extremely strong aspect of its work is its links with the Church internationally. Parents feel welcome and part of the school community and are pleased with the quality education their children receive. Senior leaders and the Governing Body have robust systems for self-evaluation and these are accurate and ensure that the school community is challenged and that future developments are identified. The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team provide outstanding leadership and ensure that children and their best interests are at the heart of all decision-making. The school has shown that it has continued to develop and improve since the last inspection and has outstanding capacity to improve further.

SIAS report. April 2012. St John's Friern Barnet Primary School, London, N11 2LB



## Judgement Recording Form (NSJRF)



**Name of School:** St John's Church of England Primary School  
Crescent Road, Friern Barnet, London, N11 3LB

**Date of inspection:** 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
**Type of Church school:** Voluntary Aided  
**Phase of education:** Primary  
**Number of pupils:** 235  
**URN Number:** 302 3307  
**NS Inspector's Number:** NS: 755

**Rating 1-4**

<b>How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church school?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>How effective is the religious education?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>How effective are the leadership and management of the school, as a church school?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education *</b>	<b>Yes</b>

\* *Voluntary Aided Schools*