

St George's Hanover Square CofE Primary School

Inspection report

Unique Reference Number	101130
Local Authority	Westminster
Inspection number	276456
Inspection dates	5–6 July 2006
Reporting inspector	Mary Summers

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 John Fitzpatrick Mr Malcolm Lothian
Date of previous school inspection	Not previously inspected
School address	South Street London W1K 2XH
Telephone number	02076291196
Fax number	02076414920

Age group	5–11
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Introduction

The inspection was carried out by two Additional Inspectors.

Description of the school

This small school serves the local community and further beyond. Many pupils come from relatively advantaged homes. A third are White British and the remainder represent many different ethnic backgrounds. Half speak English as an additional language and this includes 43 who are in the early stages of learning it. The number of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is low as is the number entitled to free school meals. The school recently gained the Artsmark Gold award. There has been a high turnover of staff over the past two years.

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

- * Improve provision in the Foundation Stage, particularly for creative and physical development.
- * Raise the achievement of the more able pupils in Years 1 and 2.
- * Improve systems to evaluate the school's performance and ensure that there is clear understanding of how progress in tackling weaknesses will be measured.

Achievement and standards

Grade:

Personal development and well-being

Grade:

Quality of provision

Teaching and learning

Grade:

Teaching is good overall and helps pupils develop their skills, knowledge and understanding well. Teaching in Reception and Years 1 and 2 is satisfactory but is improving as new and inexperienced staff develop their confidence and skills because of good ongoing professional development. Teachers throughout the school create an extremely warm and welcoming atmosphere in their classrooms and pupils feel confident to express their ideas, knowing they will be valued and respected. Pupils learn especially well in Years 3 to 6 because teachers use the information provided by ongoing assessment to plan appropriately challenging experiences for different groups of pupils. Pupils with additional learning difficulties are very well supported and those who are more able complete work at very high levels. Expectations of teachers are high and pupils relish every new challenge presented.

Curriculum and other activities

Grade:

Curriculum provision is good overall. The school provides an interesting and relevant curriculum which contributes well to pupils' good academic achievement and outstanding personal development. In Years 1 and 2, although teachers plan different activities for the more able pupils, these are sometimes not challenging enough to really extend their learning sufficiently. A high number of pupils participate in the good range of clubs and activities available. They develop literacy, numeracy and ICT skills appropriately in other subjects. Visits, for example to the National Gallery and the Natural History Museum, contribute immensely to pupils' learning. Focus days and weeks help pupils develop their initiative and enterprise skills to stand them in good stead for the future. Talks from the Police and Fire Brigade and participation in the Junior Citizenship programme help pupils learn to be safe and responsible. Pupils organise fundraising events themselves which both involve and support the local community.

The curriculum for the Reception class provides a range of well planned experiences. However, it is new and not yet embedded in practice. The outdoor area is too small to organise really

exciting activities that extend children's creative development and knowledge and understanding of the world. The lack of suitable resources further hinders planning for these areas of learning.

Care, guidance and support

Grade:

Good care, guidance and support enable pupils to achieve high standards in their work and personal development. Specific social and emotional needs are met very well by the learning mentor, who also organises a useful programme to help Year 6 pupils prepare for secondary school. The school's strong Christian ethos contributes significantly to pupils' personal development. Pupils always know they have someone to turn to if they have a problem. Good assessment procedures track pupils' development and trigger intervention programmes to support those who are experiencing any problems. However, the information is not always used well enough to plan challenging enough activities for the more able pupils in Years 1 and 2.

Pupils know their targets for improvement and take delight in checking their own work to see if they have achieved them. Arrangements for promoting pupils' health, safety and welfare are good.

Leadership and management

Grade:

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

We want to say a big thank you for your warm welcome and for sharing with us your views about the school. Miss Thompson and I thoroughly enjoyed watching you in lessons and chatting with you in the dining room and in the playground. Everything we saw and heard convinced us that you go to a good school.

Your school is good in lots of different ways.:) You work really hard and achieve high standards by the time you leave the school:) You are extremely well behaved and considerate towards others:) The teachers plan interesting work for you and help you to succeed:) Your headteacher and deputy headteacher do a good job in leading the school and helping the rest of the staff:) The teachers organise some fun activities for you, like the Enterprise Week you enjoyed recently:) All the adults in the school look after you well and help you feel safe and happy.

Mr Lothian and the other staff and governors want to make things even better for you and they have already started to improve things for the Reception children. Some building work during the summer will help to ensure that these children will have nicer areas in which to play and work. Mr Lothian will also be looking at the ways in which he plans for the future, to make sure that improvements happen quickly enough and that they help you to do even better at school. For example, we think that some children in Years 1 and 2 could be doing harder work and reaching higher standards than they are at present. We can see you really enjoy coming to St George's and we would like to wish you well in the future.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Mary Summers

Lead Inspector