



**Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools
Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2006**

Diocese of Leicester

Leicester City Council

**St Barnabas Church of England
(voluntary controlled) Primary School**

St Barnabas Road
Leicester
LE5 4BD

Inspection Date: 13th and 29th January 2010

Section 48 Inspector: Mr D G Jones (No: 166)



SIAS Report Form

Name and address of school:	St Barnabas CE Primary School St Barnabas Road Leicester LE5 4BD
Type of school	Primary
Status:	Voluntary Controlled
Diocese:	Leicester
Local Authority:	Leicester
Date of inspection:	13 and 29 January 2010
Date of last inspection:	13 and 15 March 2007
School's Unique Ref. No:	120187
Name of Head teacher;	Mrs Susan Poole
Inspector's name (with N.S. No):	Mr D G Jones (No. 166)

Context
<p>The school serves a multi-cultural area within the city of Leicester. There are 300 pupils on roll aged 3 to 11. About 60% are Muslims, 20% Hindus and 10% Sikhs. The proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language is very much higher than the national average, and the proportion with special educational needs is higher than in most schools.</p>

Summary Judgment
The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Barnabas CE Primary as a Church of England school are good.
<p>The school values the cultural diversity of its pupils and their families. Its Christian foundation is reflected in the love shown to those of other faiths or no faith and in the teaching of respect for the traditions and religious insights of others. Relationships across the school are very good.</p>

Established strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong leadership by an experienced headteacher and strong governors committed to the school's Christian foundation;• Exceptional application of Christian values in a school with 90% of pupils from other faiths leading to great mutual respect and understanding;• Excellent relationships amongst pupils and staff with strong parental support.

Focus for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider carefully the worship content of all acts of collective worship and ensure that the theme is related to the gospel in talk, song and prayer;• Place greater focus on evaluating the impact of collective worship on the school community;• Strengthen foundation governors within the governing body and ensure that Christian ethos and collective worship are discussed in depth at least annually.

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

The school is committed to its Christian foundation and cares for the spiritual needs of pupils of all faiths and none. It encourages Christian values of love and respect for all within the Christian community. Pupils enjoy sharing their faiths and this is invaluable in developing real understanding and knowledge of the many faiths. The festivals of the various faiths are celebrated and visitors often explain them to pupils. The proximity of the places of worship of so many faiths facilitate visits to learn about them and pupils show a good knowledge and understanding. This is a caring school, pupils feel valued, and there are excellent relationships between pupils and teachers. Pupils wrote about their transition to year 6 saying, 'our teachers welcome us with huge heart warming smiles and open arms..... they thought of each and every one of us as an unique one-of-a-kind child'. Pupils care for each other as reading partners, zone park players and buddies. They enjoy school, but also feel that they learn well and this view is shared by parents. A link has been established with a rural school and a link to another school in another country is under consideration. A pupil explained vividly the visit made to the other school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Of the two acts of worship observed, one celebrated achievements and the other was class led and was concerned with care for the environment. In the latter, pupils did very well and covered a wide range of topics effectively, using visual presentation and many items. The achievements celebrated in the former were varied and unusually included a presentation of awards to teachers by pupils. All of these were greatly appreciated by pupils. On each occasion a song was sung and a prayer was said. Pupils enjoy singing and sing well. The school is fortunate that the assistant head is a talented musician and is able to accompany pupils and record suitable music. During the celebration of achievement, there was little opportunity for worshipping or of recognising God's gifts, though this was done well on another occasion with a theme of 'generosity'. The themes suggested by the diocese are generally followed and include many stories from the bible and from other faiths, and draw on the life and teaching of Jesus and the early church with very good use being made of St. Paul's conversion on a theme of 'resolution'. The parish church and a deacon lead worship regularly and various visitors also make a valuable contribution. Worship takes place in the church at harvest, Christmas and end of year, and many parents attend. A record with evaluations is kept of acts of worship; it would be beneficial to ensure that this is done on every occasion, and that the views of pupils and parents are sought on their impact. During the inspection, pupils were quite clear about the positive effects of acts of worship on their lives.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school, as a church school is good.

The headteacher has long experience at this school and she and the chairman and vice-chairman of governors provide strong leadership with a clear vision of the application of Christian values in a school community of many faiths. The parish priest is a governor and one foundation governor has long experience here, but other foundation governors are needed and the diocese has suggested drawing support from a wider area. A proposal to close the adjacent church, incorporate the vicarage into the school site and use the school hall for the worshipping community is supported by all concerned and encouragingly offers many opportunities for development. Governors provide good feedback notes following visits, but currently there are few opportunities to consider Christian ethos and collective worship by the governing body. Such an opportunity to consider this, at least annually, would strengthen the effectiveness of St Barnabas as a church school. The school council is an effective body with its own officers, and contributes ideas for development.