



**Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools**  
**Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005**

# **DIOCESE OF LEICESTER**

LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY

St John The Baptist  
CE (C) Primary School  
Parsonwood Hill  
Whitwick  
Coalville  
Leicestershire LE67 5AT

**Inspection Dates: 20, 21 & 22 June 2007**

**Section 48 Inspector: Mrs Diana Saunders (132)**



## SIAS Report Form

<b>Name and address of school:</b>	St John The Baptist CE (C) Primary School Parsonwood Hill Whitwick Coalville Leicestershire LE67 5AT
<b>Type of school</b>	Primary
<b>Status:</b>	Voluntary Controlled
<b>Diocese:</b>	Leicester
<b>LA:</b>	Leicestershire
<b>Dates of inspection:</b>	20, 21 & 22 June 2007
<b>Date of last inspection:</b>	11-16 December 2002
<b>School's Unique Ref. No:</b>	120171
<b>Name of Head teacher;</b>	Mrs Paula Baldry
<b>Inspector's name (with N.S. No):</b>	Mrs Diana Saunders (132)
<b>Context</b>	
St John the Baptist Church of England (Controlled) School is situated in the village of Whitwick, on the outskirts of Coalville. The catchment area consists of a mixture of Council and privately owned houses. Ability on entry to the school is generally below the national average. Almost all pupils are of white British backgrounds and there are no pupils learning English as an additional language. The school is well cared for and spacious. There are 259 children on roll.	
<b>Summary Judgment</b>	
<b>The distinctiveness and effectiveness of this school as a Church of England school are good.</b>	
There are warm relationships and good teamwork across the school. There is an excellent sense of care for all school members, however this is not linked directly to the Christian status of the school. The school has close links with the local church community. Parents value all the school does, however they and the staff are vague on what makes a Church of England school distinctive. The ethos of the school is one of caring for and developing the individual. The very real sense of true team-spirit, involves all staff, parents, governors and the children.	
<b>Established strengths</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Strong team spirit amongst the staff.</li><li>● A respectful, caring ethos throughout the school.</li><li>● Excellent behaviour as children move around the school and enter and leave worship.</li><li>● A good relationship with the Parish Church.</li></ul>	
<b>Focus for development</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● To explore the true nature of what it means to be a Church school.</li><li>● To establish planning and recording systems for worship and an evaluation process which will measure the impact of worship on the school.</li><li>● To raise the profile of worship by increasing staff attendance, so that collective worship really is for the whole school community.</li></ul>	

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

The school shows a commitment to all members of its community. The level of care and guidance given to learners is good and reflects the school's firm commitment to valuing and educating each child as an individual. Children interviewed during the inspection reported that they feel secure and happy and they enjoy learning in a respectful and safe environment. Children feel that their achievements are recognized and celebrated. Not all parents were clear about the school's Christian character, but they felt strongly that the school prepares their children well for life. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent and is very important to the school. The children are very clear on healthy life-styles and understand the importance of taking responsibility for their own actions. Relationships across school are excellent. The school environment has limited examples of Christian signs and symbols. These include a large wooden cross displayed during worship, praying hands and a Christian display. The school's Christian ethos is mentioned only briefly in the school documentation, but is implicit in the daily life of the school, although a number of staff are unsure of the full meaning and expectation of Church School status. Parents, staff and children value their school and particularly the progress it has made in recent years. They feel it is a good school to attend.

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

Collective worship is an important part of the school day. Pupils come into worship respectfully and engage fully. Behaviour in worship and as children enter and leave worship is excellent. Children help in practical ways and express very positive views about worship. The whole school celebration assembly held each Friday in the school hall is particularly popular and well attended by staff and visiting parents. The content and deliverance of the worship seen during the inspection was good, however there is no evidence of monitoring of collective worship by members of the governing body, and no records of worship are currently held at the school. Clearly the children enjoy listening to moral stories, singing hymns and saying prayers. Whilst all teachers lead acts of worship on a rota basis, when staff are not in attendance, the impact is reduced and the importance of worship is diminished. The principle of inclusion is strong within the school, ensuring that the beliefs of pupils from other denominations and other faiths are respected and valued. The school holds special services for Easter, Harvest and Christmas and during the inspection plans were starting to be made for the leavers' service to be held in the church at the end of term. The school contributes on a regular basis to the church magazine and has, on occasions, held exhibitions in Church. The school has a clear policy on collective worship, but overall planning, evaluation and staff training have not been addressed. The worship seen during the inspection was clearly playing a significant role in pupils' personal development.

**The leadership and management of the school, as a church school are satisfactory**

The leadership of the school seeks to ensure that all pupils are secure in a well-ordered purposeful learning environment. The foundation governors are instrumental in maintaining close links with the local parish church. The church is without an incumbent at the present time but during this time a reader for the church visits to lead worship on a regular basis and she is a welcome presence in the school, maintaining the link with the local church. Foundation governors visit regularly, hearing readers and monitoring RE, for example. As yet, however, governors have not considered the toolkit and begun their legal obligation of evaluating the school as a Church school. All staff speak highly of the sense of unity and common purpose within the school and teachers are confident and feel well supported, although no induction or training is provided into what it means to work in a Church of England school. Of the two issues raised in the previous Section 23 Inspection Report the issue of devising a recording system to aid evaluation of acts of worship is yet to be addressed. The issue of allowing children to devise and present class assemblies is now fully developed. Communication in school is good and parents feel well informed. Parents heartily endorse all that the school does for their children. The Headteacher is strong and sensitive. She has the vision and energy to motivate staff and governors. The school is in a good position now to develop the leadership and management of the Church of England aspect of the school. Standards generally in school are much improved, though leadership of the Christian aspect of the school has not been a main priority. Lack of plans and records for worship, and staff absence from some acts of worship means that staff are vague about the Christian influence in other areas of the school.