



## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### Sir John Cass Foundation School

St James's Passage  
Duke's Place  
London  
EC3A 5DE

#### Diocese: London

Local authority: Corporation of London

Date of inspection: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Date of last inspection: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008

School's unique reference number: 100000

Headteacher: Mr Gerald Loughran

Inspector's name and number: Jayne Pavlou (NS 628)

#### School context

Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School is a one form entry school with a child and family centre on the site which provides early education and integrated childcare. Pupils are from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and a very high proportion of them learn English as an additional language. The number entitled to free school meals is above average, as is the number of pupils with Special Educational Needs.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Sir John Cass as a Church of England school are outstanding

- A vibrant school community who demonstrate a clear understanding and respect for the diverse communities represented within the school.
- Effective partnerships within both the local and wider community reflect the strong lead that the Headteacher provides in living out the Christian value of service.
- The exemplary behaviour of the children, displaying the positive impact that the Christian character of the school has upon all relationships within the school.
- A clear understanding of the nature and purpose of prayer demonstrated by pupils within their daily school life.

#### Areas to improve

- To move pupils on more rapidly in their Religious Education (RE) learning by ensuring they know their 'next learning step' and by creating opportunities for them to reflect and respond to the high quality marking provided.
- To sharpen the existing school aims, enabling all members of the school community to articulate a clear and explicitly Christian vision for the school.

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

This happy and thriving school provides the whole community with a strong, welcoming and inclusive ethos which is firmly based upon eight carefully selected Christian values. All members of the community understand the importance of these values and the impact they have on the daily life of the school. Parents recognise and comment on how effectively the school 'embeds the Christian values' within the children. Pupils and parents from all cultures feel safe and secure in the knowledge that their own beliefs are respected and valued. Parents describe how the school has 'arms open for everyone' and this is evident in the positive relationships enjoyed between all members of the school community and the exemplary behaviour seen in the school. There is a firm commitment to meeting the needs of the whole child and parents speak highly of the personalised programmes of learning provided, which they say ensures that 'no one falls through the net'. As a result pupils make rapid progress and achieve high standards. Pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is strong and it is well supported through the rich learning environment, engaging lessons and the centrality of collective worship. The school community actively serves and financially contributes to a wide range of charities and missions both within their immediate locality, such as the Whitechapel Mission, and further afield, such as their links with schools in Kenya and Bangladesh.

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

Collective worship is regarded as an important time in the school day and it makes a very positive contribution to the strong sense of belonging which the school community enjoys. The Christian values are prominently displayed as a back drop to worship and serve as a daily reminder of their significance. Pupils have a strong understanding of the nature and purpose of prayer in their lives and are given regular opportunities to pray throughout the school day. Prayer is clearly a very natural part of their daily life and this was evident during the inspection when the choir prayed prior to their performance. Pupils clearly enjoy writing and leading their own prayers and this was demonstrated by two children who spontaneously offered to pray for a child who was leaving the school to live abroad. The choir makes a powerful contribution to the worship within the school and they are ably led and guided by a music teacher who works closely with the leadership team in planning high quality Christian worship. Pupils particularly enjoy taking some responsibility for planning and leading acts of worship and they do this from a very early age. The Rector regularly leads worship and is a visible presence within the school. The wider school community enjoys the opportunity to experience worship in the parish church, where parents from different faiths feel able to engage and participate. During the Rector's recent maternity leave, the pupils were able to experience Christian worship led by a range of leaders from different Christian traditions. Through regular review and evaluation, the school has decided to continue to build upon this experience and incorporate it into their annual collective worship cycle.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is good**

Religious Education has a high profile within the school. Pupils enjoy the subject and say they like the opportunity it provides to 'think and reflect...and to express our opinions and viewpoints' about different faiths. The majority of pupils achieve the expected level in RE and some achieve above the expected level. They demonstrate a secure knowledge of the key aspects of the Christian faith and make effective use of St Botolph's Church to support the teaching of Christianity. One clear example of this was seen when a Reception child eagerly identified a photograph of the church and with great delight exclaimed 'it's our church!' Teachers plan RE lessons very well and ensure that tasks are pitched to match the pupil's abilities, providing a good balance of support and challenge. Teaching Assistants are deployed effectively and make a significant contribution to the pupils learning. However pupils are not always certain of how they can improve and move their learning forward in the subject. The

RE subject leader has recently facilitated professional development to enhance the teacher's subject knowledge of Christianity and the Rector has effectively supported her in this. RE is regularly monitored by both the subject leader and the link Governor and feedback is given to the full Governing Body. Assessment procedures are securely in place, although the school has rightly identified the need to enhance the monitoring and tracking systems currently in use, which will provide a more accurate view of standards across the subject.

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

All members of the community at Sir John Cass recognise the importance of the school's Christian character and understand the relevance of Christian values to their daily life. These values clearly shape the direction of the school, although the Christian vision for the school is not always clearly articulated by the different groups within the community. The school enjoys a successful partnership with parents, regarding them as valuable partners in children's learning. Links with the church and diocese are also strong and effective. The Headteacher actively encourages the school to serve the wider community, generously sharing the school's gifts and talents to support and serve others. As part of a general annual review inset day, the whole staff team and Governing Body are given opportunities to review the effectiveness and distinctiveness of the school as a church school. Additional structures are also in place which enable an RE link Governor to meet with key members of staff on a regular basis to monitor and evaluate different aspects of church school effectiveness throughout the year. As a result, leaders and governors know the school well and make accurate plans to meet its future leadership needs and the needs of all pupils.

SIAMS report July 2014 Sir John Cass Foundation School, London EC3A 5DE



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

### SIAMS Judgement Recording Form (JRF)

This form is to be attached to the main SIAMS report and returned to the diocese in which the school is situated and to the National Society.

School Name	Sir John Cass Foundation School
School Address	St James's Passage, Duke's Place, London, EC3A 5DE
School URN	100000
Date of Inspection	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2014
NS Inspector's Number	628
Type of Church School	Voluntary Aided
Number of Pupils	233
Phase of Education	Primary
Name of Critical Reader	Elizabeth Wolverson
Has Diocesan Quality Assurance been obtained for this Report? Yes	

	Rating 1-4
How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church School?	1
How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?	1
What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?	1
How effective is the religious education?	2
How effective are the leadership and management of the school, as a church school?	1
The school meets the statutory requirements for collective acts of worship	Yes
The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education	Yes

