

Inspection of St Mary's Kilburn Church of England Primary School

Quex Road, Kilburn, London NW6 4PG

Inspection dates: 11 and 12 July 2023

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Early years provision

Outstanding

Previous inspection grade

Good

What is it like to attend this school?

School values such as 'integrity, honesty, determination and excellence' guide the work of staff and pupils at this school. Working relationships between staff and pupils are caring and supportive at this highly welcoming school. Leaders and staff care deeply about the well-being of all pupils in the school.

Pupils care for and respect each other and adults. Staff respond quickly to any concerns pupils may have and help them to resolve any disagreements. Behaviour is highly positive across the school. Staff ensure that pupils know how to stay safe in and out of school. Pupils have many opportunities to build the strength of character to be successful in later life.

High expectations and aspirations for all pupils are followed by staff consistently. Teachers provide excellent support for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Pupils respond to learning challenges with great enthusiasm. They enjoy many leadership roles, such as school council members. Leaders plan a wide variety of outings and visitors to support the curriculum.

Parents, governors and community leaders are regular visitors to the school. Parents speak highly of the school, with many sharing how pupils here can flourish and thrive.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

The curriculum has been designed to be ambitious for all children from the start of the early years. Leaders identify the key areas of knowledge and skills pupils need to learn and practise over time. The carefully planned curriculum builds logically and sequentially. This helps pupils to deepen their knowledge and understanding across all subjects. Highly skilled and trained staff ensure that they skilfully build upon the content that pupils know and understand. Expectations are always high, regardless of the activity or subject. This is evident across the school, including in early years. Pupils are very well prepared for the next stages of their learning.

Leaders place great importance on the early stages of reading. They have introduced a highly effective programme of phonics teaching. Children in early years have access to a range of books to spark their interest in reading from an early age. The books are easily accessible and available in every classroom. Pupils learn to read with accuracy and confidence. Books that pupils read are carefully matched to the sounds they know. Teachers rapidly identify those pupils who need extra support. This helps pupils to keep up with the phonics programme and to build their reading confidence. Pupils read with fluency. They have regular opportunities to read an increasing variety and range of texts in many subjects. Pupils confidently shared their love of reading and the many authors that inspired them.

Pupils are enthusiastic learners who focus intently on their learning. In the early years, opportunities for reading and writing are carefully built into many play activities, role play or story time. Leaders ensure regular training and support for staff to build expertise in all areas of teaching. Teachers provide feedback to pupils on a regular basis, tailored to their individual needs. They check and address any misconceptions quickly. As a result, pupils' work and subject-specific knowledge are of high quality. Pupils are inspired by the imaginative subject content that leaders choose for them to study, such as the study of contemporary artists.

Teachers ensure that there are no barriers to allowing all pupils to access the full curriculum successfully. There are clear systems in place to identify and support pupils with SEND. This allows them to access the full curriculum.

Leaders ensure that all pupils receive a rich and carefully developed personal, social and health education programme. Pupils hold impressive knowledge about cultural diversity and different faiths. Relationships education is comprehensive and age-appropriate. Pupils understand areas such as the importance of healthy living and friendships. Leaders also prioritise pupils' broader development through access to a range of clubs and visits. Pupils are enthusiastic about the cultural experiences provided in school, which deepen their knowledge of society around them. Leaders ensure that pupils have a deep understanding of British values and of respecting everyone in society.

Leaders, including governors, have extremely high expectations for all pupils and staff. They have created a consistent approach to behaviour expectations and curriculum ambitions. Pupils rise to the challenges, develop as individuals and achieve very well. Staff feel valued; their well-being is considered, and they are supported to deliver the ambitious curriculum and school aims.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

A strong culture of safeguarding runs through the school. Staff are well trained and vigilant for signs that a pupil may be at risk of harm. Staff report concerns promptly. Leaders ensure that pupils and families get the help and support they need. They make referrals to external agencies when needed.

Pupils talked confidently about how the school teaches them to keep safe, including online. Pupils feel safe in school and know that they can talk to any adult if they are worried. This is highly valued by parents.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, '[disadvantaged pupils](#)' refers to those pupils who attract government pupil premium funding: pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years and pupils in care or who left care through adoption or another formal route.

School details

Unique reference number	100042
Local authority	Camden
Inspection number	10255373
Type of school	Primary
School category	Voluntary aided
Age range of pupils	3 to 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	221
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair of governing body	Jeanette Wilkner
Headteacher	Harvey Webb (executive headteacher), Chloe Mitchell (head of school)
Website	www.stmarykilburn.camden.sch.uk
Date of previous inspection	28 November 2017, under section 8 of the Education Act 2005

Information about this school

- St. Mary's Church of England Primary School is part of a partnership of four schools. There is one executive headteacher who oversees these schools.
- The school uses no alternative provision.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this graded inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- This was the first routine inspection the school received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with leaders and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors met with the executive headteacher and head of school, the assistant headteacher, other leaders, and representatives of the governing body, diocese and local authority.
- Inspectors carried out deep dives in these subjects: reading, mathematics, art and history. For each deep dive, an inspector met with subject leaders, looked at

curriculum plans, visited a sample of lessons, spoke to teachers, spoke to some pupils about their learning and looked at samples of pupils' work.

- Inspectors considered the curriculum in other subjects.
- Inspectors observed pupils' behaviour and relationships in lessons and at breaktimes and lunchtime.
- Inspectors scrutinised the record of recruitment checks, reviewed staff training records and met with leaders responsible for safeguarding to discuss the school's actions and support for pupils.
- Inspectors spoke to parents at the start of the school day and considered the responses to Ofsted's online survey for parents, Ofsted Parent View, including free-text responses. Inspectors also considered the responses to the staff and pupil surveys.

Inspection team

Phil Garnham, lead inspector

His Majesty's Inspector

Alan McDougall

Ofsted Inspector

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