

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Emmanuel Holcombe Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Helmshore Road

BURY

Lancashire

BL8 4PA

**Diocese of Manchester**

Bury LEA

SIAS inspection: 30 November 2005

Previous S23 inspection: 17& 18 January 2001

URN:

Headteacher: Mr Tim Power

SIAS Inspector NS: Graham H Nuttall

### **Summary Judgement**

Emmanuel School is an outstanding Church School with many strengths. Christian Ethos is at the heart of school life and relationships within the school and within the wider school community are of a very high order.

### **Context**

Emmanuel School has four classes ranging from Reception to Y6 with 98 pupils on roll. 4% of pupils represent various ethnic communities and the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is well below national average. The number of pupils with learning difficulties or statements is also below average when compared with schools of similar size. Housing stock within the school catchment area consists of some desirable properties, and many families are socially and economically advantaged.

### **Established Strengths**

- The very strong and firmly established Christian ethos upon which the school is founded.
- The highest quality relationships between staff, pupils, parents and the wider community.
- The high quality of worship and RE teaching which directly contributes to pupils' spiritual, social and moral development.
- The high value placed upon each and every individual within the wider school community.

### **Focus for Development**

- Continue to develop opportunities within Multicultural Education.
- Formalise assessment strategies within Religious Education.

### **How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?**

The contribution of the school's distinctive Christian character towards meeting the needs of all its learners is excellent. Since relationships within the school are of such a high order and so highly valued, pupils speak with great pride about the high standard and quality of care shown by both teaching and non-teaching staff and by each other. There is a very strong commitment to both the local community and the church. This has a positive impact upon the achievement of pupils who feel secure and highly valued. The recently inaugurated School Council provides good opportunities for pupils to take a degree of responsibility for their school. Older pupils set outstanding examples of care towards younger pupils and in the way they work collaboratively together. Pupils' behaviour and

manners are exemplary. The school exudes a warm, friendly and caring ethos together with a happy and vibrant atmosphere in which pupils are keen to succeed.

Y6 pupils were unanimous in their view that this was a good school because of the high standard of care. One Y6 pupil said, "Everyone knows each other and all the staff and the children care for you. It's just like being in one very big happy family."

### **What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?**

The impact of worship on the School Community is very good. Pupils enjoy worship and all children participate with positive enthusiasm. Acts of Worship are well planned, effectively presented and play a central role in the life of the school. The strong links with the parish church ensure a good understanding of Anglican traditions and many worship themes follow the liturgical calendar. The school provides good opportunities for prayer and enthusiastic sung praise. The role of the vicar within school worship, his regular visits into school and his well-established and friendly relationships with pupils is to be commended. Pupils have compiled an anthology of prayers for use at lunchtime. Children clearly enjoy and value worship time and this element contributes significantly to the positive spiritual ethos, which is to be found within the school.

### **How effective is the Religious Education in the school?**

The impact of Religious Education is good. Pupils have a well-developed knowledge of Christianity and discuss issues of faith with growing confidence. The RE Scheme broadly follows the Manchester Diocesan Guidelines, but with some imaginative adjustments to provide a balanced programme for mixed age range classes. The co-ordinators work hard to ensure the subject is well managed; the quality of teaching and learning is good. Pupils show some very positive attitudes and their interest is stimulated by enthusiastic teaching and skilful questioning techniques. Lessons are well planned with clear learning objectives and with a variety of differentiated activities when appropriate.

### **How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?**

The leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding. The recently appointed Headteacher has been warmly welcomed both within the school and the wider community. His open style of leadership has been accepted because it emanates from aspiring high standards coupled with an infectious enthusiasm for the further development of the school. He is ably supported by a highly committed staff, many of whom have strong Christian beliefs. The wider church community is encouraged to support the school and pupils experience solid role models from adults who live out their Christian life in practice. Governors work hard within the school community; they carry out their management tasks fastidiously in their efforts to further support the Headteacher in planned future developments. Parents feel that the school has many special qualities which are distinctly Christian. These qualities impact positively on learners by providing them with a strong sense of community identity, learning within a very caring ethos and giving pupils appropriate responsibility together with a well rounded education.

SIAS NOVEMBER 2005 Emmanuel CE VA Primary School, Holcombe BL8 4PA