

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Halewood Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Church Road,  
Halewood,  
Liverpool,  
L26 6LB

**Diocese: Liverpool**

LA: Knowsley

Dates of inspection: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006

Date of last inspection: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2000

School's Unique reference number: 104450

Headteacher: Mr. D. Smith

Inspector's name and number: Rev'd. C. A. Close

#### School context

Halewood is an average size school on the outskirts of Liverpool. The village of Halewood is well established with very few ethnic minorities. There is a broad range of backgrounds with a low proportion of 'Free school Meals'. SEN figures are around average and a very few number of Children are from other faith backgrounds

#### Summary Judgement

Halewood Church of England Primary School is a very good Church school with many outstanding features. The Christian ethos permeates all aspects of school life and encompasses the 'Every Child Matters Agenda'.

#### Established strengths

- There are excellent relationships with the Incumbent, Church Members, the local Secondary School and the wider community.
- Worship is central to the life of the school, with the vicar taking planned weekly Worship sessions and class worship being planned and attended by parents and has a positive affect on the school and the wider community.
- All learners are valued and recognised as precious individuals.
- The new Headteacher's leadership is already having a positive affect on the school with the higher profile being given to RE and Worship.
- The devolved system of Pastoral Care for pupils is effective in every child being able to identify with another pupil to look to support and the older pupils are given a staff member to speak to.

#### Focus for development

- The excellent work seen in lesson observations, in classrooms, around the school and evident when speaking to pupils is not reflected in the written work. To develop an effective system for monitoring, evaluating and developing the recording of work,
- Religious Education and Collective Worship to be given a realistic budget for the work undertaken in these areas.

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

The school is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners. The school's Christian ethos and values affect all areas of school life. The school has a very low number of pupils from other faiths and these children are very well supported. The school effectively meets the needs of all pupils in all areas ensuring that all are valued as members of the same human family and are enabled to make progress commensurate with their ability. Relationships within the whole school community appear excellent,. The children are well aware of, and follow, Christian principles when problem solving. Incidents of Bullying/Racism are very rare and the children report that any concerns in these areas are soon resolved. All children interviewed knew what to do if they felt unhappy about any issue. The school has major budget problems and the newly appointed Headteacher is working, with the Governors, to try to meet the needs of all.

#### What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?

Collective worship makes a good impact upon the community and has several outstanding features. The Governors attend worship on major festivals and the governor of the month is encouraged to attend worship. Collective Worship is recognised as the most important part of the school day. There is a good link between the Monday worship where a theme for the week is introduced and the

Friday worship where children are encouraged to thank God for things that have fitted into the link throughout the week. The two acts of worship observed were thought provoking and involved staff and pupils. Parents/carers were also involved in one act of worship. Each month one class leads worship and the parents, carers and friends of that class are invited. These are very well supported. The Worship observed was Christian in character and evoked positive response from all involved.

Scrutiny of records would suggest that the worship, over the year, reflects Anglican tradition. worship takes place in the hall, classrooms and, on major festivals, the Church. visitors are used throughout the year to enhance worship. The pupils reported enjoying worship and when questioned could relate worship themes to daily life. They joined in the singing with enthusiasm and talked with pleasure about some of the hymns used.

The Head and worship co-ordinator have started to monitor and evaluate worship to ensure all needs are met. Although there was reflection in the worship observed, the coordinator did however understand the need for children to have time to reflect on a theme or focus and it was built into worship at other times and was observed in other areas of school life.

'We love coming to these assemblies. It is good to be involved'. Parent

#### **How effective is the religious education?**

The effectiveness of religious education is good. Four lessons were observed of which three lessons were outstanding; in one older pupils were being enabled to discuss death and dying issues whilst exploring their ideas about heaven. The younger children were enabled to see the significance of prayer in the life of a believer and were enabled to share prayer time together.

Three lessons were meaningful and relevant to today and addressed both attainment targets at high levels, the fourth addressed AT1 at a satisfactory level. Children understood the tasks in hand and could relate to the topics well. Discussion showed that all children enjoyed the set work and that the subject was making a difference to the children's development and understanding of religion and the importance of rituals in life. Scrutiny of work showed that the recording of work needs careful consideration and restructuring to ensure that it is RE which is recorded, and that it is recorded in a meaningful manner.

The work on ideas of heaven illustrated the trust, which had been developed, between staff and pupils and enabled the children to openly discuss religious issues of great importance, including their fears.

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

The Headteacher and governors provide very effective leadership. The Headteacher has taken over a school with serious budget problems, which were not fully known until he took up the post in September 2005. This has meant that the leadership team has to work very carefully to ensure that the children continue to have high quality provision. The leadership team is supported by a very dedicated staff. Learners and parents speak very highly of the school and the quality of Christian education provided.

The (OFSTED) questionnaires to parents/carers' and subsequent interviews, show how highly they value the leadership and management of the school and in particular with how well it is lead as a Christian school. Children feel involved in the leadership of the school – 'we asked for a library and we got one'. The school is involved in a variety of fund raising to support the Christian concept of helping and caring for others.

The Headteacher on taking up the appointment had a meeting for all parents and friends of the school to put forward his Christian vision for the school.

SIAS report February 2006 Halewood Church of England Primary School Church Road, Halewood, Liverpool, L26 6LB