

# National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

## **Leyland Methodist Voluntary Controlled Infant School**

Canberra Road  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR25 3ET

### **Diocese of Blackburn**

Lancashire LEA

SIAS inspection: 29 November 2005

Previous S23 inspection: 13-14, 16 November 2000

URN: None

Headteacher: Mrs. Christine Cranfield

SIAS Inspector NS 179: Heather Starkie

### **Context**

St Andrews is a Voluntary Controlled Infant School situated in an urban environment which is rated as one of 25% most deprived areas in England and Wales. The school houses a voluntary nursery group from which most children transfer into the Reception Year. There are currently 197 children on roll, comprising 3 Reception classes and 5 mixed Y1 and Y2 classes. A significant number of children with special educational needs, from a wide spectrum of disability, are supported and there is a teaching assistant in each class. St Andrews is an enhanced Investor in People school and is particularly committed to the training of future teachers.

### **Summary Judgement**

Leyland St. Andrews is a good Church School, providing a very caring and nurturing environment, with an emphasis on inclusion, which enables all members of the school family to thrive and develop.

### **Established strengths**

- The partnership and vision of the Head, staff and Governors in promoting high achievement in a caring and challenging Christian environment.
- The close and mutually supportive relationship with the Church supporting the learner's understanding of the Christian faith.
- The inclusive ethos enabling all children to have full access to the curriculum.
- The support for and development of, trainee teachers, teaching assistants and parent helpers.

### **Focus for development**

- To continue to find new ways of maintaining and building on the very good Church/School relationship.
- To enhance the already good quality worship by developing more opportunities for reflection and involving the children in evaluation.

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

All children are valued and nurtured as individuals and feel secure in the inclusive, caring Christian ethos of the school.

The outstanding support given to the children, and families, who have special needs, whether transitory or ongoing, is grounded in the Christian values promoted throughout the school. The children play an important role in devising their own codes of behaviour and they feel confident in going to any adult within the school with individual problems. The school encourages children to have respect for the beliefs and values of others and an understanding of the Christian principles governing attitudes to mistakes and poor behaviour. Children are prepared to play leading roles in school life such as in the School Council and preparing fund-raising activities for charities and maintaining regular sponsorship of a third world child. Individual achievements are recognised and celebrated. The topic approach to the curriculum creates good opportunities for promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development especially in appreciation of art, nature and establishing links with RE.

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

Collective worship has a good impact on the school effectively promoting its Christian Foundation. The daily act of collective worship provides a positive experience of Christian worship and is effective in supporting spiritual development. There is a varied pattern in that members of senior management, staff and visitors all share in the leading of worship and the school worships in Church once or twice a term. The concept of the school as a Christian family is promoted by the attendance of the teaching staff and other adults in the school. Children play an active role, responding well and obviously enjoying the experience. Each class has the opportunity to lead worship during the achievement assembly and all are involved in festival occasions such as Harvest and Christmas. The children meet different styles of Christian worship through the leadership of weekly visitors, in rotation from the Church, the Salvation Army and from various Christian organisations. Class prayers precede the midday meal but the school should consider developing the practice of sharing a moment of reflection in class at the beginning of the day. Children have a good attitude to worship but their opinions are not sought as to its impact, this should be remedied and recorded in the evaluation process.

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

The Head and Governors have a shared vision of the school as a Church School, which is evident in their effective and efficient leadership and management.

The purposeful and happy working atmosphere in the school reflects the excellent quality of leadership and the positive relationships throughout the school. Learners are assessed and monitored enabling the school to set targets purposefully and realistically. Professional development is encouraged at all stages, from the voluntary parent helper to the senior management team and individual skills and expertise are shared both within school and further afield in the county. As an advanced Investor in People, the school is very experienced in the encouragement of personal self-review, evaluation and reflection and the various teams within the school provide mutual support. The Governors play an active role in the school and are highly supportive of the school. The close church/school relationship is reflected in the prayerful support given to the school, and in the children's familiarity with the church. The school is to be commended for developing the playground effectively and imaginatively. The rewarding, creative use of the playground by the children exemplifies the value of the partnership between parents, staff, governors and learners who all played a part in its creation.

SIAS NOVEMBER 2005 Leyland Methodist VC Infant School, Lancashire, PR25 3ET