

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Oxton St. Saviour's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Holm Lane
Prenton,
Merseyside
CH43 2HT

Diocese: Chester

LA: Wirral

Dates of inspection: 29th June 2006

Date of last inspection: September 2000

School's Unique reference number:

Headteacher: Mrs N J Tabern-Price

Inspector's name and number: Graham H Nuttall

School context

Oxton St. Saviour's C E Aided Primary School has 7 year groups ranging from Reception to Y6 with 239 pupils on roll. There is no Nursery provision at the school. Most pupils live in a settled suburban residential community with the majority of families living in privately owned homes. Social mobility rates are very low and the area surrounding the school is relatively socially and economically advantaged. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is 4%, which is considerably lower than national norms. The number of pupils with learning difficulties has been identified at approximately 15%, which is also below the national average for schools of similar size. No pupils within the school have a statement of special educational need.

Summary Judgement

Oxton St Saviour's C E Primary School is a good school with many strengths. Christian ethos is at the heart of school life and relationships both within the school and the wider community are of a very high order. Pupils are very well cared for in a warm, friendly and caring environment. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility not only for themselves but also for others and parents are valued as partners within the learning process.

Established strengths

- The pervading Christian ethos found within the school which significantly contributes to the personal, social, cultural, moral and spiritual development of pupils.
- High quality teaching within Religious Education and high quality acts of worship.
- The exceptionally strong church, community and parental support for pupils.
- Strong and highly effective relationships with the parish clergy of St. Saviour's.
- The well motivated RE co-ordinator who strives for rigour within the subject.

Focus for development

- Develop strategies for assessment within Religious Education.
- Develop periods of reflection within Collective Worship.

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

The contribution of the school's distinctive character towards meeting the needs of all its learners is good.

High quality relationships exist throughout the school and this enables pupils to feel secure and valued as individuals. Christian values are evident within the school and this impacts positively on the quality of care to be found within St. Saviour's. Responses from a school-initiated questionnaire indicated that pupils considered that members of staff were mindful of their needs. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about the respect shown for each other as well as for those less fortunate than themselves; the school demonstrates a strong commitment to inclusion. Whatever their religious faith, pupils' moral, social, cultural and spiritual development is good. There is a positive climate of achievement and pupils are given many opportunities to take responsibility and contribute towards many wide aspects of school life. The School Council and the School Eco committee are examples of this and provide good opportunities for pupils to exercise a degree of ownership and responsibility within

the school. The behaviour and manners of all pupils are exemplary. A quiet, purposeful and calm atmosphere within the school creates a positive learning environment within which pupils can thrive.

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

The impact of worship on the school community is outstanding. Acts of worship are well planned, superbly presented and play a central role within the life of the school. The exceptionally strong links with parish clergy ensure a good understanding of Anglican traditions and themes for worship often follow the Liturgical calendar. The role of the clergy within both worship and the wider school domain cannot be underestimated and is highly commended. School Eucharist is celebrated within some services which are held in church at major festivals and at the beginning and end of each term. Worship is important in the life of pupils at St. Saviour's and is a key element in its Christian witness. Both individual members of staff and also groups of learners deliver school worship and the quality of provision is extremely high. The school provides good opportunities for prayer and enthusiastic sung praise. Periods of reflection are built into worship time, but the school has identified that these could be usefully developed.

The results of a school-initiated questionnaire indicated that a very high percentage of learners thoroughly enjoyed worship and found it to be a valuable experience in their lives. Some of the comments by pupils included the following:

"Worship is our time for our school to remember God", "It's special when we sing and say prayers together", and "We need to speak to God, He makes us happy and we love God".

How effective is the religious education?

The effectiveness of Religious Education is good. Religious Education (RE) is recognised by Governors and Staff as being of high importance within this Church school. The quality of teaching and learning is good with some outstanding areas and pupils' achievements are high. The subject makes a distinctive impact on learners' spiritual and moral development. Staff utilise ICT, Art and drama in order to make the subject "come alive" and there are strong links between RE and PHSE. The co-ordinator manages the subject well and is keen to utilise the "Godly Play" resources to develop the subject through increased drama presentations. Schemes of work fully reflect the school's Christian foundation, with some appropriate weighting being given to some other world faiths. Some of the older pupils have been confirmed, with the parish priest taking responsibility for Confirmation classes during the lunchtime period. The school is aware that Assessment strategies within RE are not yet fully in place and that this is an area for further development.

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

Leadership and Management of the school as a Church School are good. The Headteacher provides innovative and dynamic leadership giving the school a clear sense of purpose and direction. Her leadership style is warmly welcomed because it emanates from aspiring high standards and an enthusiasm for the continued development of the school. She is ably supported by a hard-working Governing Body and 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 many adults working in the school who live out their Christian lives in practice. Governors work hard within the school community; they carry out their tasks fastidiously in their efforts to support the Headteacher and her staff as "critical friends" and in their efforts to execute future developments within the school. Many parents consciously opt for St. Saviour's school since it has many special qualities which are so overtly 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 some appropriate responsibilities; thereby affording them very firm foundations to their personal development and education.

