

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St. Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Damfield Lane,
Maghull.
Liverpool.
L316DE

Diocese: Liverpool

LA: Sefton

Dates of inspection: 9th and 15th December 2005

Date of last inspection: October 1995

School's Unique reference number: 104895

Headteacher: Mr. F. Driesson

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

School context

St. Andrew's is a large controlled primary school, with a declining population. This decline is attributable to the falling birth rate, the school remaining popular with parents. Attainment on entry is above average and there is a lower than average number of children with SEN. The school is undergoing a big rebuild, which will greatly enhance their facilities.

Summary Judgement

St. Andrew's Primary School is an outstanding Church School, with strengths in all areas. 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, includes a staff, governors and friends weekly prayer group, and has a positive affect on the whole life of the school.
- All learners are valued and recognised as precious individuals.
- The Headteacher's outstanding leadership is reflected throughout the school through the devolved leadership of the SLT, Head boy and Girl, the Prefects and the 'Play Pals'.

Focus for development

- Whilst there is dialogue on all aspects of school life, including Worship, it may be advantageous to formalise this by the use of questionnaires.
- To consider sharing the good practice observed in the school throughout the Diocese.

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

The school through its distinctive Christian Character is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners. The school's Christian Ethos and values affect all areas of school life. The Headteacher and SLT have evolved a structure, which ensures that all learners and their carers feel both valued, and a valuable part of the school. There are several hearing impaired children in school who are fully integrated. The higher achievers are also given opportunities to enhance their learning. Displays around school address issues, such as 'Bullying', in a Christian manner, which ensure that all children understand that Bullying/unkindness will not be tolerated and the needs of those who have problems of any kind can be met. An 'I need help' bin, which is, in the first instance, dealt with on a daily basis, by the School Council, ensures the issues of importance to the children are acknowledged and dealt with. The completion of the 'Help Needed' book allows staff to monitor concerns and to take control if needed. Whilst there are no children from other faiths, older children are taught an understanding of other faiths and an acceptance of them. Relationships within the whole school community appear excellent, (this view is supported by OFSTED) and are well supported by the Incumbent and the Church as well as the Headteacher. 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 quickly dealt with. The Governors attend Worship on major festivals and the worship co-ordinator has started to monitor worship, to ensure the needs of all are met.

The school is undergoing a major new build and the Headteacher and SLT have worked to ensure the safety of all and that the provision of Education is not affected by the work being undertaken. To quote a parent, 'The staff were the first to listen to me regarding the concerns we had about our child, yet they still wanted him'.

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

The impact of Worship on the school community is outstanding. Thoughtfully and expertly compiled Worship uses a wide variety of media. Collective Worship is held as the most important part of the school day. The three acts of worship observed were thought provoking and involved staff and pupils, as well as the Headteacher.

The Headteacher took the opportunity, at the end of the Infant Nativity play to give a Christian message to the parents and friends present.

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, also reflects Anglican traditions. Worship takes place in both halls, classrooms and St.

Andrew's Church, (however this has been limited this year because of building works at the Church.). Visitors are used throughout the year to enhance worship, and the school visits other places of worship to share their worship time. The pupils reported enjoying worship and stated that 'it teaches us how to treat each other'. Other comments included, 'I love hearing about Jesus', 'songs are great'. This view is upheld by the number of pupils attending the extra-curricular Bible Clubs. There are class prayers at lunchtime and at the end of the school day.

The Head, Worship Co-ordinator and, recently a Governor, evaluate worship.

Children have open dialogue with the Headteacher, which is used informally to affect changes. Pupils are fully involved in worship, including leading worship and writing prayers for the same. The Prayer Wall is well used for 'posting' prayers, it is treated with respect by all. Past worship themes are displayed to enable staff to refer to them whilst addressing behaviour issues.

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

The Leadership and Management of the school is outstanding. The Headteacher, Worship Co-ordinator and Governors provide exemplary Christian leadership.

The school is Christian throughout, thorough planning shows the importance placed on incorporating Christian teaching into all areas of learning. The worship co-ordinator is a dedicated Christian, who takes great care over all aspects of worship.

There is very clear purpose and direction. The Head and Collective Worship co-ordinator provide in-service training for other Sefton schools. All staff are at least in sympathy with the aims and values of a Christian school, this has been managed through the Headteacher's careful leadership, open door policy and understanding of the needs and fears of some staff members.

The Headteacher has ensured that ample funds are available to ensure quality provision. The effective use of ICT enhances worship and allows the children's varying learning styles to be met. There is good use of reflection one boy reporting, 'the quiet times give me time to think about my aunty, who has cancer and it helps to remember good times.'

The Governors are fully involved in the running of the school, and the Collective Worship Governor has started to monitor Worship. Several Governors are from an Educational background and are committed Christians.

The school is involved in a variety of fund raising to support the Christian concept of helping and caring for others. This Christmas nearly 250 'Shoe Boxes' were collected.

The (OFSTED) parents/carers' questionnaires, show very high parental opinions on the leadership and management of the school and the parents interviewed expressed great satisfaction with the Christian Ethos and leadership.

Leadership encompasses all ages through the school's systems of Headteacher, SLT, Head boy & girl, prefects, school council and Play Pals.

To quote a parent – 'Mr. Driesson ensures that the gospel values are to the front of all that the school undertakes and are not watered down by the school as it teaches PSHE&C and an understanding of other faiths'.