

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School

Oak Road,
Denstone,
Uttoxeter,
Staffordshire
ST14 5HF

Diocese: Lichfield

Local authority: Staffordshire

Dates of inspection: December 6th

Date of last inspection: June 4TH 2001

School's unique reference number: 1242246

Headteacher: Mr Simon Webster

Inspector's name and number: Mr David Huw Williams : 348

School context

All Saints Church of England Controlled First School is a popular school situated in the village of Denstone, close to the market town of Uttoxeter. The majority of the children are from White British heritage. After an interregnum of eighteen months the parish has a new 'Priest in charge.'

Summary Judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of All Saints as a Church of England school are good.

All Saints is a good school. The Christian values of love and concern for each individual provide a safe and secure learning environment. The commitment of the staff team and their knowledge of each individual enable the pupils to flourish.

Established strengths

- The commitment of the Headteacher and staff to the care and support of the pupils.
- Good links between the school and the church.
- An effective learning environment which enables pupils to realise their potential.
- The children's positive behaviour and the caring support they show towards each other.
- The support for the school and the confidence expressed in it by Governors, parents and the wider community.

Focus for development

- Adopt and implement a systematic approach to the monitoring and evaluation of worship so as to include all stakeholders.
- Extend the variety of worship settings and style so that pupils can be more personally involved.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners

The Headteacher, ably supported by staff and governors, has established a positive climate where all pupils are challenged to achieve. The school's ethos is underpinned by Christian values. Parents supported this and commented '*I'm giving over my children to people I can trust*' and '*the day to day running of the school makes it special not just the special occasions.*' All feel welcome, safe and valued. Pupils and parents are confident in the structures for help and support within the school. Pupil's behaviour is good. Pupils have a

good understanding of what is right and wrong and acknowledge the importance of rules. The staff's good use of the knowledge they have of the individual pupil enables them to provide the support and challenge they need for successful achievement. Children's achievements both academic and non academic are promptly recognised, rewarded and celebrated through the system of merit cards and certificates. The school's Christian distinctiveness is well supported by good displays and Christian symbols, for example the high quality advent and nativity display. The strong family ethos within the school helps to encourage in the children a strong sense of identity and security. Relationships in the school and the wider community are good, reflecting the ethos and values of the school. Governors provide very good support. Staff are excellent role models for the children.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship is an important aspect in the everyday life of the school. Collective worship is well planned on a three year cycle, and a good variety of themes are delivered by a range of leaders. Collective worship would be further strengthened through evaluation by involving all stake holders in the process. Staff regularly attend whole school worship and this enhances the family ethos of the school. Pupils are aware of the distinctive nature of worship and enter and exit the hall in a quiet and respectful way. Children speak positively about worship and look forward to the daily act of worship and the many special occasions when visitors come to school, for example bringing puppets to worship. They are attentive and respond well with thoughts and opinions. In the worship observed about Advent, two girls sang 'Ave Maria' quite beautifully and this was well used as an aid to a quiet and reflective time. Children are keen to talk about their Christian faith and made such comments as '*I like it when we talk about God,*' '*I like saying the Lord's prayer.*' Pupils are not at present involved in leading worship and this is an area for development. Worship in the local church on special occasions is extremely well supported by the whole community wanting to share in the celebrations. The 'pram service' held at the church supports the church's involvement in the school and strengthens the excellent induction process. Relevant understanding of Anglican traditions is aided by appropriate prayers and symbols used in worship. Pupil's understanding about other faiths is developed through themes which are appreciated by the children, for example the learning of Zulu hymns, the work on the Sikh community and the divas made during Divali.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good

The Headteacher, ably supported by the staff and Governors, share and promote a Christian vision for the school. The school's aim of '*valuing the uniqueness of each child*' and '*creating a caring Christian community*' are the foundations of the schools continual improvement. Adults in the school provide good role models. The recently appointed 'priest in charge' is already very committed to the school and is a regular and welcome visitor. There are good links with the local church. The school and the governors actively work together to provide the children with good experiences of the Anglican traditions. Some progress has been made in beginning to evaluate the school's Christian distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church school. The children have good experiences of services at the church. The children are eager to share their views with others. Parents consulted during the inspection were highly supportive of the school. They were pleased with the progress made by their children, not only academically, but also with the level of individual care they receive. Parents were also pleased with the school's community involvement and the happiness and readiness of the children to attend school.