

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

All Saints Maldon Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Highlands Drive,
Maldon,
Essex
CM9 6HY

Diocese of Chelmsford

Local authority: Essex

SIAS Inspection: 25th September 2007

Date of previous inspection: 10 October 2002

URN: 115130

Headteacher: Mrs. Margaret Owens

SIAS Inspector: Canon Peter Hartley

School context

All Saints, Maldon is a split-site primary school. It has 327 pupils across the two sites with most pupils in mixed-age classes. There are a number of pupils with statements and special needs. There are a pupils from other cultures and backgrounds but the majority are of White British heritage. The old school on London Road has various curious shaped and sized rooms, whilst the modern Highlands Drive buildings incorporate more usual classroom provision. The playing field and swimming pool are at Highlands Drive.

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

This is a good church school, with a positive Christian ethos and is effective in providing for the needs of all its learners. The school works hard with members of the local community and particularly with the local church.

Established strengths

- A Christian ethos in which all community members feel supported and valued.
- Good relationships between the staff and children, which are based upon mutual respect.
- Good links and involvement with the local church.

Focus for development

- To further develop the evaluation of Collective Worship in the school so that it can be used to think through the termly scheme and its daily delivery.
- For all staff and governors to work together to think through the ethos of this as a church school as it looks to various changes.
- To ensure that the future management of the school secures the present strengths of the school.

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

The school provides a happy learning environment and the children's achievements are consistently acknowledged in Celebration assemblies for the whole school community. The children respond positively to the responsibilities they are given in the School Council and feel that their opinions are valued. Children write the evaluation comments on each Collective Act of Worship. The school works hard to be one school even though there are the two sites. The children appreciate this and enjoy coming together. The older children speak warmly of being on the London Road site, yet moving to join the children on Highlands Drive site. The children demonstrate concern and support for other community members, they are clear that it is a Christian school which takes faith seriously. They value going to church and times of reflection. Relationships within the school are very positive and are founded upon mutual respect. Exploring ways of progressively developing the school's spiritual life has not been focused upon nor have all understood that the Christian ethos

needs the school to include certain elements.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective Worship is the key element of the school's Christian witness and it forms an important part its daily life. The acts of worship are well planned and organised even with the limitations of the two sites. The coordinator provides helpful guidance to the worship leaders to ensure that the worship is consistently Christian and follows the Anglican tradition. The school is well supported by the vicar and friends from other denominations. The school is sensitive to beliefs and traditions of other faiths and uses them to explore the universal beliefs, however a parent withdraws two children. The majority of children listen attentively and respond positively to opportunities to actively engage in worship. The children can clearly articulate the types of worship that they find inspiring and reflective and enjoy and appreciate visiting and worshipping in the local church. Prayers are read by the worship leader and children participate in the 'amen'. Some children would wish for more frequent opportunities for quiet reflection.

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

The various school policies and documents make clear reference to the school's Christian character. The Headteacher and foundation governors provide good role models with regard to Christian values. Governors lead acts of worship and one foundation governor is working in the school on a regular basis. The school is well lead. The parents are pleased with the education and experience that the school provides for their children. Both sites have a common value system and respect all equally and bring together those from differing cultures. The children evaluate Collective Worship whereas standards in other areas are more rigorously monitored by adults. The School Council is elected each year and forms a useful children's voice in the school. The governors are clear on the needs for the school and have worked hard, but unsuccessfully recently, to recruit a Head to develop all aspects of the school and in particular relationships and ethos.

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