

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### All Saints Upton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hough Green Road  
Widnes  
Cheshire  
WA8 4PG

#### Diocese: Liverpool

Local authority: Halton  
Dates of inspection: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007  
Date of last inspection: 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> July 2003  
School's unique reference number: 131217  
Headteacher: Mrs. J. Forrest  
Inspector's name and number: David Thorpe - 461

#### School context

All Saints is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school for pupils aged 4 to 11. There are 167 on roll. There is a 51 place pre-school on site. The school draws children mainly from the immediate area. The majority of children are of white British heritage. All Saints has gained Healthy Schools accreditation and is working towards the Basic Skills quality mark.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of All Saints, Upton as a Church of England school are good

The leadership of the Head teacher and the dynamic vision of the Vicar are to be commended. Christian values are at the heart of school life and relationships within the school community are of a very high order. The school ethos encapsulates positive values and attitudes within both learning and teaching. The high standards of behaviour and manners together with the caring attitudes of all pupils are good illustrations of the school's Christian ethos which underpin all aspects of school life.

#### Established strengths

- The passionate vision of the Vicar and head teacher for the school
- Pupils are happy, secure and thoughtful: they are valued as individuals and benefit from a warm family atmosphere.
- The leadership of the head teacher leads to good teamwork within the school.
- Relationships between school, church and the wider community are very effective and result in the school being highly thought of by the community

#### Focus for development

- To put into practice the vision of linking the school with a school in Zambia, enabling the whole school community to own the vision.
- Maintain and build upon the strong links with the parish church.

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

All Saints is a very friendly school that through its Christian character meets the needs of all its learners well. There is a calm, peaceful and well-ordered atmosphere. The entrance to the school creates the tone for visitors, as does the cross on the school badge. Every classroom displays a constant reminder of the school's Christian character: the spiritual areas are valued by the children as places where they can 'be quiet and reflect'. Children, staff, governors and parents all speak highly of the school's ethos and very positive atmosphere and demonstrate their support through their hard work and involvement.

The 'Kindness Token' scheme has had a very positive impact on the school by helping children to recognise acts of kindness and encouraging such behaviour. They can pass on

their kindness token to someone else who has demonstrated kindness to them, so extending the kindness. The SEAL initiative is having a productive and positive impact throughout the school – it encourages the children to think through problems and what their responses should be. The pupils are taking on increasing responsibilities within the life of the school and this is helping them to become considerate citizens. One example of this is the Play Leaders' Scheme where older pupils are trained to play with younger pupils at lunch-times.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.**

Worship is planned in conjunction with the SEAL initiative and follows the Church year. This enhances the worship and demonstrates its importance in the life of the school. Pupils respond in a positive manner during their worship time. They use basic liturgical responses correctly and are currently being taught the meaning of the Lord's Prayer. The active engagement of all adults in the school and the local Church community sets a good example and role model for the children. The children state that they enjoy worship and the variety of forms that it takes. This was clearly evident in the outstanding singing in the act of worship observed. The variety of assembly leaders is a strength of the school. The Vicar is very much involved with a dynamic vision for the future that includes the introduction of a Eucharist for the older pupils. This is to be preceded by 'Communion Lessons' that will help the children think through many important questions about their lives as they grow and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Another aspect of the vision is the further development of the already good relationships with the local Roman Catholic school and church. Joint planning meetings between both heads, the Vicar and the Roman Catholic Priest have recently been introduced to aid this. This is having a positive impact on the local community as evidenced by both governors and parents. It is also providing a model of good practice to the pupils in the area of interdenominational work.

**The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good and in some instances outstanding.**

A significant and outstanding contribution is made to the vision and purpose of being a Church school by the Head teacher and the Vicar, in conjunction with the Governing Body. The Governors have a good understanding of their role; are supportive of their school leadership and promote the Christian ethos actively. The School Council take an active role in school decision making and this enhances the ethos of the school. One excellent example is in the production of a School Prayer – each child writing an individual prayer and the School Council is now in the process of taking parts from all of them to formulate a prayer for future whole school use. The calm, orderly and peaceful atmosphere around the school is a result of the head teacher's leadership. Throughout the school there is a shared vision that is fully valued by the parents who speak highly about how the school helps in providing the Christian foundations of life for their children. The school's Christian purpose is clearly expressed within its Mission statement and prospectus. All Saints, through the leadership at all levels, provides a secure learning environment within a very caring Christian ethos.