

All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School

Bourne Avenue
Ranton
Stafford
ST 18 9JU

Diocese: Lichfield

Local authority: Staffordshire
Date of inspection: 4.7.08
Date of last inspection: 4.7.05
School's unique reference number: 8603152
Headteacher: Mrs G Reynolds
Inspector's name and number: Mrs E M McWhirter 244

School context

All Saints Ranton is a very small rural school with extensive grounds which supports the spiritual development of pupils. There are three teachers including the headteacher, serving the twenty eight pupils currently on roll. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds.

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

All Saints is a place where pupils are encouraged to aim high, enjoy learning and experience close links with the parish church. This delightful family school is at the centre of its community and valued by all.

Established strengths

- Strong links with the church, especially through the vicar
- The quality of collective worship offered to pupils
- The quality of relationships that exist in this 'family' school where all belong and have a part to play.

Focus for development

- Embed the plans for ensuring foundation governors are involved in the evaluation of collective worship
- Involve all stakeholders in exploring the nature of a church school.

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

Christian values permeate the policy and practice of this school, where pupils feel listened to and valued. The parent body strongly feel that the fostering of Christian values and attitudes at a very young age provides a firm foundation on which to build for life. These values are fully supported by the values in the home. The level of care throughout the school is very high and parents find the school very approachable. Pupils are clear about right behaviour and understand the importance of being kind and helpful and are mindful of what forgiveness means. Faith based morals are lived out and service and gratitude are seen in giving to the poor in Africa. Bright displays enhance the learning environment and support pupils' spiritual development. As one pupil said, '*the cross with hands on outside reminds me of Jesus*'. Charlie's garden of remembrance built around a dovecot, together with the extensive and beautiful grounds with train, barge and pond tended alike by pupils and parents, further supports spiritual development. The 'Smiley faces', a symbol of the school, boldly proclaim the school's ethos in every available corner of the school. All Saints is in good spiritual health.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship clearly engages pupils and is making a real impact on pupils' lives. They are able to make the connection between worship and real life situations. For example, care for their environment is very much reflected in a pupil's 'thought for the week' to 'keep the flowers growing'. Pupils were enthusiastic about praying and singing. They spoke with passion of the school practice to 'snuff out the candle and share the peace of the Lord', which reflects the impact of these Anglican rituals on their understanding of worship. Year 2 pupils currently evaluate worship at their own level and have conducted their own pupil survey to find out the most important part of worship for everyone. Plans are in hand for foundation governors to be more fully involved in this important aspect of school life. In these ways worship is improving in quality, integrity and style. Major festivals in the church year such as Harvest, Christingle and Easter are celebrated and are integral to the worship life of the school, and clearly strengthens the partnership with the church. Daily worship in this small community provides good opportunities for spiritual development. Pupils especially enjoy visits from the vicar when Bible stories come alive and pupils are totally involved in the whole experience.

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

The distinctive Christian vision is clearly evident and promoted by the headteacher and foundation governors so that the Anglican foundation is articulated and celebrated. All Saints has much to offer and is noted by parents as a place they want to bring their children to. Everyone feels valued and all model the school vision. There is an excellent partnership between the headteacher and vicar. There are plans to provide joint opportunities involving the whole school in exploring the nature of a church school so that all are actively and effectively engaged in this important aspect of self evaluation. Developing the work of seeking the views of all the community, including the parents, on the distinctive Christian character of the whole school will help to ensure this. The strong links with the incumbent and the parish church, with support from the diocese, enable church and school to work together so that the church/ school links are seen and valued.