

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Carleton St Hilda's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Bispham Road  
Carleton  
Poulton - le – Fylde  
Lancashire  
FY6 7PE

#### **Diocese: Blackburn**

Local authority: Lancashire  
Dates of inspection: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006  
Date of last inspection: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2001  
School's unique reference number: 119557  
Headteacher: Miss B Grime  
Inspector's name and number: Mr M Graham 286

#### **School context**

St Hilda's School is an aided Church of England School situated in a residential area in the village of Carleton, near the town of Poulton - le - Fylde. About 40% of the children are admitted from outside the immediate area, and are from a wide range of social and economic backgrounds. The vast majority are of white British heritage. There are 41 (of 186 on roll) with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, of whom 9 have Statements of special educational needs.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of as Carleton St Hilda's a Church of England school are good**

St Hilda's is a good Church of England School with outstanding features and a strong and very distinctive Christian ethos. There is strong leadership with excellent support from the governing body and all members of staff. The school is extremely effective in its Christian witness.

#### **Established strengths**

- The excellent relationships within the family of the school
- The interactive and rich nature of worship which makes a significant contribution to the spiritual development of the children
- The clear Christian vision and inspirational leadership of the headteacher, well supported by the deputy head and the governors.

#### **Focus for development**

- In religious education ensure that there is consistency in the quality of learning and teaching across all the classes
- To establish a long-term planning 'cycle' for worship to include evaluation

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

The children are happy, well mannered and friendly and know that they are special. The systems for behaviour management and social development that are in place to reinforce this are very effective and well used. The school's Christian ethos impacts strongly on the children. The atmosphere around school is calm and secure with many opportunities for individuals to take on responsibilities. School and class councils, Y5 and Y6 helpers in the Infant playground and worship music monitors are examples of this. Every child is encouraged to flourish and develop through excellent child-centred teaching and provision of many opportunities to join clubs and be involved in sport, fund-raising and class discussions. The Christian ethos of the school supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all the children very well. Openness, honesty and care for one another stand

out – this is a strength of the school. Several children with disabilities are well integrated and loved. The relationships between staff and learners, amongst learners and between staff demonstrate Christian values extremely well. Within school there are bright and often interactive displays and ‘Prayer Corners’ in each classroom, together with good areas of focus for worship in the hall. There is a beautiful rainbow painted on to the wall by the children, a table with an altar cloth and candle and a projected background for songs designed by a teacher saying, “God loves you”. This environment clearly encourages spiritual development.

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

Worship is central to the life of the school, not only at the start of each day but at other times also. All the teaching staff attend worship every day except Tuesday, when singing practice takes place. The latter is seen as vital in teaching the children not just the songs but also their meaning and spiritual significance. The children enjoy worship and value it highly. Comments made included references to laughter; actions; acting; being involved; learning about the Bible, God and Jesus. No child feels compelled to join in worship but all took part with enthusiasm on the inspection day. The tone set by and the inspiration derived from worship by staff and children is very significant, and this is a strength of the school. The theme for the day/week is addressed through story, prayer, Bible references and interaction between leader and children and it is followed up at various times during the school day by the staff. The relevance and importance of this is clear. Father Roland, the vicar at St Hilda’s and Chair of Governors, works very closely with Miss Grime and links with the church in worship are very strong and getting stronger – this year classes are to lead worship in church once a month on Sundays. The major Christian Festivals are celebrated in church and parents and governors are very supportive. The children are fully involved and take pride in their involvement. Planning for worship is evolving, and needs to be developed further in terms of long-term structure and evaluation. At present weekly themes using some of the ‘SEAL’ (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) materials are followed and developed by the Headteacher, Father Roland and the Deputy Head.

**The effectiveness of Religious Education is good**

The teaching and learning seen during the inspection were excellent. An infant class was captivated by the teacher’s involvement of her own baby son as a living example of God’s wonderful creation. Awe and wonder were clearly evident. The junior class children were absorbed in their lesson on David and Goliath, which included singing, role play, group discussion, persuasive debate and empathy. An outstanding and sensitive teacher brought the maximum out of this well-known Bible story. The spiritual, emotional and moral development of the learners was very good, and all were fully engaged and enjoyed the lesson. Their increased understanding of the issues involved - God as creator and trust in Him - was evident from the answers given as the lesson progressed. The children are very positive about RE and clearly understand the importance of learning about faiths other than their own. The ‘India Week’ was obviously a highlight for the children, and they were particularly thrilled about the visitors - Hindu, Sikh and Christian – who came to share about what their faith means to them. The religious education clearly promotes the distinctive Christian character of the school together with an understanding of other faiths. However, standards in RE are mixed. Some very good work is produced, but the quality and quantity of written work is variable. The Headteacher/RE co-ordinator is aware of this, and plans are in place to ensure that very high standards are achieved throughout the school. These include assessment of the subject over and above the ‘end of key stage’ levelling and assessment via the portfolio that is already in place.

**The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding.**

The Headteacher and governors are rigorous in promoting a distinctive Christian vision for the school. Father Roland is fully involved and the vice-chair and all the governors are fully supportive. The Headteacher, senior management and governors are very active in encouraging, monitoring and challenging the school community to realise this vision. The recent Diocesan course attended, the self-evaluation being undertaken (Diocesan model)

and the work on the SEAL materials are all testimony to this. Staff feel valued and also challenged, and are fully involved. School and class Councils are functioning very well, and the children involved definitely feel that their contributions are valued, and that their decisions can become part of school policy. The vast majority of parents are delighted with the school and are given regular opportunities to give feedback. The PTA meetings provide a regular 'forum' for parents to discuss any issues with the Headteacher. The commitment and inspirational leadership of the Headteacher is outstanding, and she is very well supported and encouraged by her deputy and the governors.

SIAS report September 2006 Carleton St Hilda's CE Primary School Bispham Road Carleton Poulton - le – Fylde Lancashire FY6 7PE