

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Christ Church Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Nelson Street
Patricroft
Eccles
Manchester
M30 0GZ

Diocese: Manchester

Local authority: Salford

Dates of inspection: Wednesday 18 October

Date of last inspection: March 2000

School's unique reference number: 105935

Headteacher: Mr J D Cowperthwaite

Inspector's name and number: Mr T Croasdale

School context

Christ Church is a small school that dates back to 1872. The numbers on roll are now increasing. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is double the national average. A small minority of pupils speak English as an additional language and the proportion who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities is smaller than average. Staffing over recent years has been unsettled. School is a member of Eccles Education Action Zone.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Christ Church C of E (Aided) School as a Church of England school are satisfactory.

After a difficult period and, since achieving Aided status, it is rapidly improving and is well placed to become a good Church school in the foreseeable future. The current Head Teacher and the Governing Body have a strong vision for the future of the school and this positive, Christian ethos is already having a positive on pupils learning.

Established strengths

- The continued leadership of the Head Teacher and Governors especially through the recent difficult times.
- The quality of relationships which exist within the school and the high level of care and support provide by the staff for pupils.
- Within the constraints of a very old building there is a stimulating working environment which helps to promote and enhance learning.
- The developing links which exist between church and school.

Focus for development

- To develop further, acts of worship by looking to enhance planning, record keeping, reflection and evaluation.
- To develop the role of the R.E. co-ordinator including assessment.
- To encourage more active involvement of pupils in whole school acts of worship.

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

The children show good consideration to each other and to adults as a result of the very positive ethos. Behaviour is a strength of the school, for example with the older pupils supporting younger pupils at lunch time and in the playground. Staff provide good role models for the children and show commitment to the development of every child in their care. Learners expressed the view that they feel valued and enjoy much of their work. School celebrates their achievement during a regular award assembly. In addition to Christian festivals, celebrations of other world faiths are shared by the whole school community. Within the confines of a very old school building, displays are good illustrating both religious

education and other aspects of learning and so everyone is very much aware that the school is a Church of England school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

Whole school acts of worship, especially those lead by the Incumbent, adequately affirm the Anglican foundation of the school and all pupils join in well with the Lords Prayer and sing the hymns. School visits church at regular intervals and also classes visit the church as part of the R.E. curriculum. This enables pupils to enter into the spiritual life of the church more fully. All members of the teaching staff now have the opportunity to lead acts of worship and this provides a good role model for the pupils in valuing worship. Adequate resources are available to staff to support them as they plan and lead worship. More active participation from the pupils would further enhance their positive attitudes to collective worship and the next step in the development of worship at Christ Church is to enhance the planning, recording and evaluation process. Greater opportunities for reflection will allow learners to become more involved and hence develop their spirituality. After the difficult times which school has experienced in the recent past it has been left very much up to the Head Teacher to act as the worship co-ordinator and develop links with the clergy team. These links are developing well and there is a clear vision of how collective worship could evolve in the future.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Overall the standard of learning and teaching in R.E. is good with some outstanding features. At its best the quality of teaching gave rise to a special atmosphere in which the children were able to reflect well upon events introduced and developed in the lessons. Good differentiation is provided in lessons, through activities for different groups and through support provide by the teacher and teaching assistants. R.E. is given a high priority in the school. This is reflected in the quantity and high quality of R.E. displays in the classrooms and throughout the school. Good use is made of the Diocesan Syllabus and there is an appropriate balance between Christianity and other world faiths. Good links have been made between R.E. and other subjects in the curriculum (in particular the use of R.E. linked effectively to I.C.T. and art were observed during the inspection.) One area for development, when a new co-ordinator is appointed, will be to monitor planning, teaching and the standard of work produced by the children. School also needs to develop assessment further using the materials provided by the Diocese.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is satisfactory with all the indications showing that with the increasing stability this will develop further in the immediate future.

The foundation governors of the school are committed to the development of Christ Church as a church school as can be seen by their support for the school when it gained its aided status in 2003. The Head Teacher and Governors are committed in their vision of moving the school forwards as a Church school and, as the rest of the young staff develop and are able to offer additional support to the Head, the next few years should see school evolve to become a good school. In order for school to progress in terms of leadership and management then the role of R.E. and Worship co-ordinator needs to be developed further. Good links have now been forged with the Clergy team and these should be used to enhance the quality of leadership and management. The Head Teacher & Governors are working well together to ensure that the schools vision, aims and priorities as expressed in the School Improvement Plan are implemented effectively to assist the school in moving forwards. New teaching staff are well supported in their roles. Good links exist with the community and parent's support school in many effective ways including involvement in major church festivals.