

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Christ Church Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School,

Albert Street
Oldbury
B69 4DE

Diocese: Birmingham

Local authority: Sandwell

Date of inspection: 3rd December 2008

Date of last inspection: June 2005

School's unique reference number: 103997

Headteacher: Mrs M Long

Inspector's name and number: Mr A S Brown No. 256

School context

Christ Church Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England school with 228 pupils on roll. The school has pupils from a range of cultural and religious backgrounds with a high proportion being from Indian or Pakistani origins.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Christ Church Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

Christ Church Primary School is an outstanding Church of England school. There is a purposeful and clear educational vision expressed in all areas of the school that recognises the important place a church school has in a multi-faith, multi-cultural community. The Christian character is outstanding, there is strong purposeful leadership and there is an absolute commitment to the continuing development of RE, worship and pupils' spiritual and moral development. There is a good and productive relationship with the church.

Established strengths

- The impact of the Christian character on the life of the school which welcomes members of all faiths and none;
- The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils;
- The vision and values of the leadership team.

Focus for development

- To include pupils in the planning of worship;
- To ensure RE remains challenging throughout Key Stage 2.

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

The Christian character of Christ Church school is apparent in each classroom, the common areas and other aspects of school life. It is a school where pupils feel valued and are polite, well behaved and able to relate to the needs of others both in school and the wider community. The prominent use of pictures and creative writing on the walls in classrooms

and the common areas indicate the opportunities offered to meet the religious, spiritual, personal and emotional needs of all pupils. There are also opportunities offered, and taken, for quiet reflection and spiritual development for pupils in each classroom. The concern of the headteacher and all the staff for the general welfare of the pupils finds expression in the day-to-day running of the school. The headteacher described the character of Christ Church school as 'being part of the larger, welcoming Christian family': an accurate reflection. All the pupils interviewed, and those spoken to informally, knew they attended a church school, liked coming to school and expressed great pride in it. They liked and trusted their teachers and enjoyed their work. 'School is fun' was one response and there was an appreciation of the way in which teachers make learning enjoyable. Pupils are given every encouragement to develop their levels of self-confidence and self-esteem, engaging in conversation in a mature and confident manner.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship in Christ Church school has a place of central importance which underpins its Christian ethos and character. It remains, however, open and inclusive to those of all faiths and none. Collective worship recognises the diversity of ability and backgrounds. It is rooted in Christian teaching while recognising that pupils' spiritual and moral development will be enhanced through deeper understanding of other beliefs and practices on their lives. There are a variety of styles of worship throughout the week and over the term led by staff, pupils and clergy. They are all well planned, interactive and thoughtful. Pupils record their own prayers which are available in classrooms and there is an expectation from both staff and pupils that they will value and enjoy worship. Indeed, worship '*is enjoyable and interesting*' was a comment from one pupil and endorsed by others. Pupils are now ready to play a greater role in contributing to planning worship. The pupils' appreciation of the Incumbent has encouraged relations with the church and the school visits the Church regularly participating in a termly act of worship with the Sunday congregation in the Church.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Religious Education has an important place within the school. The standard of work is good and expectations of the pupils are high. Progress and monitoring is good, though pupils should be challenged more towards the top of KS2. RE is very well resourced with a good range of materials to support the teaching across the school. The lessons seen at KS1, a lively, interactive drama of the Nativity Story involving all the pupils, and a good demonstration of the use of a variety of pupil centred tasks at KS2, were very carefully prepared and presented by teachers interested in the subject. The subject leader has worked very successfully to ensure teaching is well supported and the guidance to colleagues, which recognises the vitality and relevance of RE in pupils' lives, is outstanding. Pupils work with enthusiasm and enjoyment and their work is carefully and constructively marked, identifying strengths and weaknesses in an encouraging and thoughtful manner.

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

The headteacher, the leadership team, the Incumbent and the governing body all have a clear and united vision of how a church school in an urban multi-faith, multi-cultural environment should serve its local communities. They pursue this vision with enthusiasm, energy and a sense of purpose. Leadership and management are thoughtful with a clear and strategic view about the impact of church school improvement drawn from excellent critical

self-evaluation documentation. The school does many things very well and should have the confidence to recognise this in its regular audit. Christ Church is a church school with effective and productive links with the widespread communities which, in turn serves to make a significant contribution to community cohesiveness through the involvement of pupils who have a strong sense of social and community responsibility.

SIAS Report December 2008 Christ Church CofE Primary School, Oldbury, B69 4DE

