

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **New Longton All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Hugh Barn Lane

New Longton

Preston

Lancashire

PR4 4XA

**Diocese: Blackburn**

Local authority: Lancashire

Dates of inspection: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007

Date of last inspection: March 2002

School's unique reference number: 119569

Headteacher: Miss Nicola Duggan

Inspector's name and number: Mary A.R. Binks 455

#### **School context**

The school building is set within extensive, attractive grounds with a pleasant outlook, making an interesting and spacious environment for the children's recreation. Most of the children have had access to good quality pre-school education. The Foundation Stage Profiles clearly show an above average standard of attainment on entry. The Head Teacher was appointed at the latter end of the Summer Term, following a period of unsettled management.

#### **Summary Judgement**

New Longton All Saints CE Primary School has an established Christian foundation and good relationships with the church and community. The warm and welcoming environment provides security and consistency for the children and all concerned with the school.

#### **Established strengths**

- The strong Christian foundation which is reflected in the relationships throughout the school and with the local community.
- The quality of the Collective Worship.
- The variety and creativity in lesson presentation and activity in the teaching of Religious Education.

#### **Focus for development**

The parish church to explore with the governors and staff ways of involving the clergy and other church members in regular witness and service within the school.

#### **The way in which the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners is good.**

There is a clear emphasis on the celebration of personal achievements and good behaviour. This enhances the children's positive attitudes towards the school. They enjoy being there and feel they are safe and well cared for. They are confident in expressing their views and concerns and making suggestions through the School Council. They feel that their contributions are treated with respect and acted upon appropriately. The school has a good Christian ethos, reflected in the warmth and strength of relationships throughout the school. The school's Mission Statement is displayed and is clear in its aim to uphold the Christian distinctiveness of the school's life and work. There is an open and welcoming policy extended to all parents and visitors. The school plays a prominent part in the life of the village and is well supported by the local community. This encourages local interest and involvement. This helps to give the children good experience of belonging to the wider family and to recognise their part in it. The relationship with the church is good, but the school seeks to strengthen the involvement of its members more regularly in the life of the school. The children's experience of other cultures and faiths is limited. The spiritual, moral and social development is of a high standard. The children are confident in talking about themselves and the school. Their behaviour is good and they show care and respect for each other, towards visitors and for their surroundings. The Buddies Scheme and the Awesome Behaviour Club are taken

seriously by the children. They are clearly involved in promoting them and value the sense of security and care which has developed through them.

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

Worship is a central part of the life of the school. It is well planned, following the Christian Year and related themes. The staff are confident and comfortable in leading worship with their classes and for the whole school. This creates positive experiences for the children and helps them recognise the natural place of worship in the life of the school. They are at ease in creating and using their own prayers and also have a good foundation of formal prayers which are used regularly. They sing well and are enthusiastic about being involved in different ways in the presentation of worship. Good use is made of the links with the church. Special services held in church are well attended and supported by parents, governors and members of the church and community. This helps to raise the children's self esteem and encourages their recognition of their part in a wider worshipping community. The school is involved in church activities which are integral to the life of the village. They take part in activities and fund-raising events held in the school building. A number of families connected with the school attend the church and many children are involved in the church's children's and young people's activities. Parents, governors and the local community regularly attend and participate in the school's worship and they recognise its significance in the life of the school.

**The effectiveness of religious education is good.**

The co-ordinator is committed and enthusiastic about the subject and encourages opportunities for variety in the teaching of RE throughout the school. An effective portfolio is being built up with examples of the variety of work produced. This is reflected in the confidence of the staff and their willingness to experiment and develop their ideas for the presentation of lessons and involvement of the children. The effects on the children are positive. They enjoy the lessons and the challenge of different activities. The quality of discussion and exploration of ideas is high and examples of "hot seating" and dramatic performance were very effective. The support service provided by the Diocese is valued and has contributed to the development of RE throughout the school. Good use is made of additional materials provided, including strategies for exploring ways of recording activity and progress. The collection of resources is good and includes religious artefacts to support the teaching of Judaism and Islam. The school is sensitive to the beliefs and tradition of other faiths and cultures and the staff are currently exploring ways to invite speakers and arrange visits in order to help broaden the children's knowledge, experience and appreciation of different traditions and ways of life. The development of RE throughout the school receives the support and encouragement of the governors and parents as it is established as an important part of the school's life and work.

**The leadership and management of the school as a church school are good.**

The Head Teacher, only recently appointed, has a clear Christian vision and a positive and encouraging attitude. She has established a good Senior Management Team which works well and encourages a good team spirit amongst all the staff. This is recognised by parents and governors and reflects well in the children's good behaviour and attitudes to school. The co-ordinator for RE and Worship works well supporting the staff and keeping them aware of developments. There is an overall commitment to the care and support of all children and to the maintenance of good standards. This enhances the aims of the Mission Statement and has positive effects on the children's learning and their feelings of security. The governors have an active and effective presence in the life and work of the school. They are committed to being part of the work of the school and to monitoring standards. They also regularly support events and participate in acts of worship. Parents are very supportive and there is an active Parent Teachers' Association which works well organising regular social and fund-raising events. All this encourages the children's confidence in recognising their belonging to a supportive and caring community and valuing their part in it.