

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Parish Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

CharlesStreet
St.Helens,
WA10 1 LW

Diocese:**Liverpool**

Local authority:

St Helens

Dates of inspection:

18/19th September 2007

Date of last inspection:

December 2000

School's unique reference number:

104793

Headteacher:

Mrs Lynn Ryder

Inspector's name and number:

Mr I Thomas 350

School context

Parish Church is an average sized school drawing pupils from the town centre of St Helens. It serves an area of socio/economic disadvantage. The vast majority of children are from a white British background. The number of children on the Special Needs Register is above the national average while those eligible for free school meals is about twice the national average. A new headteacher took up post in September 2007.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Parish C of E Primary School as a Church of England school are good

The overwhelming desire to support all the children to achieve their potential and include them in school activities reflects the school's mission statement. This is based on clear Christian values of love and respect. An outstanding ethos which is warm, friendly and open to all pervades the school. The Christian foundation is demonstrated very well through high quality displays and a strong emphasis on moral and spiritual development.

Established strengths

- The excellent support systems for children and parents are based firmly on Christian values.
- Very good links with the local church and community.
- High quality teaching and learning in Religious Education.

Focus for development

- To find ways to further evidence Attainment Target 2 in RE assessment procedures.
- To increase the involvement of all stakeholders in Collective Worship.
- To improve the consistency of the process for evaluation of Collective Worship.

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

Parents feel the school belongs to the whole community and gives a good grounding in the Christian faith. They see their children being nurtured and allowed to grow in a safe and secure environment. Outstanding attention is given to the well-being of each child as an individual as demonstrated in the school's mission statement and its motto –'Growing in Christ'. The school uses a wide range of support agencies to ensure all children are given the necessary guidance to develop. This is strengthened by good links with the pre-school playgroup based in the building. The participation of all pupils in learning is enhanced by the hard work of adults to ensure no one is excluded from the wide ranging activities and experiences offered. Children speak highly of these opportunities. The praise they receive supports growth in personal pride in their work and self-esteem. Great emphasis is placed on spiritual and moral development. Excellent displays in both public areas and classrooms proclaim the Christian identity of the school and prompts religious thinking, giving

opportunities for spiritual development. Pupils are proud of the work they undertake for charity, recognising why this is needed in a world where there are great needs. They are also confident enough to initiate fund raising of their own without being prompted by adults. Those elected to the school council have taken on the work maturely, understanding the nature of the responsibility for the greater good of their own community. Relationships are very good throughout. Children are polite and welcoming, showing respect and good manners to each other and visitors.

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

Children see collective worship as a very important aspect of the life of their school. They feel it gives them Christian messages and helps them learn about God. Planning of worship by the co-ordinator is good. It follows a four year cycle which incorporates well the major Church festivals. Worship for the whole school is primarily led by the head and deputy head. This is done well. The local clergy lead a weekly worship, ensuring good links between school and church. Visiting speakers are also organised in order to add variety to the worship and to provide a different Christian perspective. Children sing well and treat the time in worship with reverence. They enjoy taking part through drama and leading prayers, some of which are written by them. They also are happy to relate memories of past acts of worship and comment on how it affected their personal thinking and understanding of the world. A prayer wall is available for children to add their own prayer for use in school worship. This helps them to see how prayer can play a natural part in their own daily lives. Parents speak highly of the class assemblies. They are invited into school and to the services held in church. Although there is some evaluation of worship, there is no consistent practice.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good.

Scrutiny of last year's work, together with samples of current work across all classes, show that the children achieve at least the expectations of the diocesan syllabus. Many achieve a higher standard. This was particularly evident in Attainment Target 1 in which children learn about religions. Evidence is not so clear for Attainment Target 2 'Learning from Religions' and the school needs to work on this aspect. The teachers follow the diocesan scheme of work well. There is imaginative use of resources and activities in lessons, such as the children placing things they are thankful for in a box for later use in prayers, or the hot-seating of a character from the Bible to illustrate feelings and encourage empathy in the children. Marking of work is to a high standard. This praises the children for their work and where appropriate guides them on how to improve. Assessments are used effectively to guide teacher's planning and the children's future learning. The children speak well of their RE lessons and are able to articulate clearly what they have learned and how this affects their behaviour. They know their opinions are taken seriously by staff. The school's strong stance on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural learning is evidenced through the high standard of behaviour of the children and the ability of the older children to argue effectively from different points of view. For their ages, the children have an excellent understanding of the Christian faith and a good understanding of Anglican traditions. RE is recognised by parents, children, teachers and governors as being a priority subject in the school. It is regularly monitored by the coordinator and any areas for development placed in the subject's development plan. Spending on Religious Education is very good ensuring good quality artefacts and materials. The co-ordinator makes good use of training which is then passed on to other staff to ensure high quality teaching.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good with some outstanding features

The school's mission statement - partnerships, achievement, respect, independence success and happiness - is displayed around the building and on public documentation. It is reinforced by an annual presentation evening when children from each class are rewarded for activities which reflect each part of the statement. Regular reviews involve all stakeholders, including pupils and parents. This helps to refresh and reinforce its effectiveness. The Senior Management team is well supported by the governing body not only through regular meetings but on a more practical level through links to individual classes. Accurate self evaluation systems, such as the use of the SIAS Toolkit, and effective monitoring of RE are incorporated in the School Improvement Plan. All stakeholders are involved in this process. There are

strong links with the local church which is trying to establish a programme for using the school for regular worship in the heart of the community. The wide-ranging extended schools provision serves the community very well and strengthens links with the near-by Catholic Primary school.

SIAS report September 2007 Parish C of E Primary School, St Helens WA10 1LW