

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Preesall Fleetwood's Charity Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Mill Street,  
Preesall  
Poulton-le-Fylde  
Lancashire  
FY6 0NN

#### **Diocese: Blackburn**

Local authority: Lancashire

Dates of inspection: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Date of last inspection: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2002

School's unique reference number: 119558

Headteacher: Mr J Belshire

Inspector's name and number: Mr Peter Jump

#### **School context**

Preesall Fleetwood's Charity is a voluntary aided Church of England primary school with 132 children on roll. The proportion of children eligible for free school meals is below the national average. The percentage with learning and behavioural difficulties is also below the national average, although the percentage of pupils with statements of need is higher. Children come from mixed social and pre-school backgrounds.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Preesall Fleetwood's Charity School as a Church of England school are good.**

The school has a distinctively Christian character which permeates all aspects of school life. Its Christian principles and values are promoted well and impact effectively upon the children's development.

#### **Established strengths**

- The school has a strong Christian ethos evident through its worship and relationships.
- There is evidence of strong and growing links between church and school.
- There is a clear whole school vision of the Headteacher and Leadership team and their commitment to promoting the Christian ethos and the Christian faith within school.

#### **Focus for development**

- To further develop the assessment procedures used in Religious Education in order to inform future planning.
- To implement a review of the school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a church school.

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

Whatever their background, their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good. A strong partnership exists between pupils, parents, staff, the church and the wider community. This can be seen through the care and support given to all in the school community. The school is involved in many local and world wide activities such as the links with Kabare School in Kenya, fund raising for Christian charities and carol singing in the local community at homes for the elderly. This involvement is underpinned by the Christian ethos of the school and further aids their spiritual development. This is also characterised by the learners' very good behaviour and the feelings expressed by both children and parents as to the care and security that they receive. The children feel safe and say that bullying is not a problem. They have full confidence in the Head Teacher and all members of staff and say, 'If it was a problem it would be solved straight away.' Parents are very supportive. They describe the

school as having good links with the church, promoting environmental issues very well and that teachers understand individual needs. They describe the teachers as being very approachable and always giving 100% into their work. They are pleased that the children enjoy attending the school.

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

Worship occupies a place of importance in the life of the school and is a key element in its Christian witness. Acts of worship are well planned and delivered mainly by the head teacher, vicar and class teachers on a rota basis. There are good levels of participation by individuals and groups of learners and all acts of worship are positively received by the children who fully enjoy these experiences. Worship is recognisably Christian, impacting well on each child's spiritual development and their understanding of the Anglican tradition. This can be seen in the planning documents and through the answers given by the Year 6 pupils. The hall contains a small table with cross and candle as a focal point and there is a moveable overhead projector used to provide the words for songs and prayers. The act of worship seen was the weekly one led by the Vicar who is also fully involved in the planning of the effective programme. The school is involved in services in church from time to time in the school year and has recently taken part in a Sunday service for the first time. This has been a very positive development where the children were encouraged to take part thus helping to boost each child's confidence and self-esteem. The Vicar is regularly involved in school worship and the links between the church and the school are very strong and developing.

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

The children have a good knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. Achievement in relation to the children's background and prior attainment is good and is in line with other subjects as are the standards of attainment. There is much cross-curricular work ensuring that Religious Education not only exists as an individual subject but also permeates the whole curriculum making it an integral part of the life of the school. The school's decision to provide a creative and stimulating curriculum also applies to Religious Education and is impacting effectively on the children's learning. Two good lessons were observed and involved this creative approach.

The Year 6 lesson which was observed involved the re-telling of the Exodus story through drama. The behaviour of the children was excellent and they were fully on task at all times. Five groups had written their own plays and performed them in an imaginative and dramatic way. The children clearly had understood the story and all the various scenes were skilfully linked by the teacher. This work was then taken forward into the afternoon's English writing lesson thus re-emphasising the concepts learnt during the morning.

The responses of children in Year 6 showed a mature understanding of the Christian faith reflecting sound learning achievements. They understand who Jesus is and why he came. Whatever their own faith background children enjoy the subject and acknowledge its relevance to their own lives. The Vicar is fully involved in the life of the school and his expertise is used from time to time in the delivery of the curriculum. Schemes of work fully comply with the Blackburn Diocesan syllabus and reflect the school's Christian foundation at the same time as giving some weight to other faiths. The newly appointed Religious Education subject leader is very effective and is clearly focused on what is required to take the subject forward. There is effective monitoring taking place although as yet there is a lack of effective assessment procedures.

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

The Headteacher and governors have a clear Christian vision for the school and are effective in developing and promoting the Christian ethos and character of the school. There is a good team spirit which exists within the school which helps staff and children to feel that they are part of a caring and supportive Christian community. Children and their parents speak positively about the commitment of the staff to all individuals. The school enjoys a close and strengthening relationship with the church helping to cement its place at the centre of the

local community. The Governors have a good overview of the school and share and support the Head Teacher's Christian vision for the school. The Mission Statement clearly reflects the Christian foundation and character of the school. The school has yet to review and evaluate its distinctiveness and effectiveness as a church school.

SIAS report February 2007 Preesall Fleetwood's Charity CE Primary School Mill Street,  
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