

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

School of the Resurrection Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Pilgrim Drive

Beswick

Manchester

M11 3TJ

Diocese: Manchester

Local authority: Manchester

Dates of inspection: 17th October 2006

Date of last inspection: 11th October 1999

School's unique reference number: 105547

Headteacher: Ms M Hogarth

Inspector's name and number: Mrs S M Bowen 454

School context

This is an average sized Voluntary Aided primary school. The majority of pupils are from white British backgrounds, with around 25% from minority ethnic groups. There are very few pupils at an early stage of learning English. More than half the pupils are entitled to free school meals. The percentage of pupils with learning difficulties/disabilities is around average. On entry to the nursery, many children have below average level skills.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of School of the Resurrection as a Church of England school are outstanding

The school has an outstanding Christian ethos in which staff, pupils and the whole community all subscribe to its clear Christian principles.

Established strengths

- The school's very clearly articulated mission and principles expressed in action;
- The clear lead given by the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher;
- The cohesion of the school community in subscribing to the mission of the school.

Focus for development

- Continue to develop the leadership of RE in the curriculum, to ensure that:
- assessment procedures are monitored to ensure that they are embedded
- resources continue to be enhanced to support the teachers, including interactive resources and those for faiths other than Christianity, and that teachers are fully aware of what is available.

The Church of England school of the Resurrection is outstanding in meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character.

The school has a very distinctive Christian character based firmly on its name, and the central importance of this concept in Christian belief. The Christian character is promoted in the entrance hall and throughout the school by very high quality displays and artefacts. It continues to be evident in the relationships of staff with each other, and with the pupils. Pupils learn through this to be respectful and kind to each other, and to enjoy taking responsibility. They say that the school looks after all its pupils very well, if they need extra help, if they have recently arrived or if they are having any problems. They are very clear that they are members of a Christian community.

Collective worship has an outstanding effect on the school community.

The central importance of Collective Worship in the school is promoted and upheld wherever possible, and as a result, pupils and parents are very clear about the messages that come across. The pupils enjoy assembly, and feel valued and special when they receive praise.

Parents say they are frequently invited to join in, and greatly appreciate the effort put in by the teachers. Pupils in Year 6 are given greater responsibilities, so that the younger pupils are eager to get into Year 6. These include being part of the Resurrection Dancers, who work all year to produce a creative dance routine, linked to the school's name, which is performed within and outside the school. Links with outside organisations are very strong, and again these reinforce the school ethos. Most notable amongst these are the very active links with the Archbishop of Canterbury, with 617 Squadron RAF Lossiemouth, and the annual visit to St Michael's spiritual centre in Scotland.

The school community joins together to celebrate happy moments and to support each other through sad moments. The Vicar, and the Captain of the Church Army attached to the Church, each take a regular assembly and their participation is highly appreciated within the school, with the pupils citing them as people who would help you if you were in any difficulty. Frequent visits are made to the local church, and the whole school visits Manchester Cathedral every year.

The effectiveness of religious education is good.

RE lessons carry an important profile in the whole school curriculum. They are greatly enhanced by the school's excellent arts curriculum, especially art, drama and dance, thus making an effective contribution to the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils say that they really enjoy their RE lesson and can recount elements that they have recently covered with great enthusiasm. They feel challenged in RE and say that they work hard. Year 6 pupils are challenged to discuss concepts such as trust and commitment, and they give examples from their school life. Progress in RE is monitored through lesson observation, overview of planning and by scrutiny of books. Work in books is well presented, showing that pupils value what they are writing.

Methods of assessing pupils' understanding in RE are in place but not yet embedded and understood by all. The curriculum has changed recently, so that teachers have new areas to cover, particularly in relation to faiths other than Christianity.

Leadership and management of the school as a church school are outstanding.

The Headteacher, governors and staff provide outstanding leadership and work in effective partnership to promote the distinctively Christian ethos of the school. Members of the school community are justly proud of their school and what it stands for. New staff are supported in becoming part of this and putting the vision into practical action. When possible, the governors recruit from within the community for teaching assistants, who form a loyal and highly skilled backbone to the school. The partnership with the local Church and Church Army is very strong, and thoroughly underpins the school ethos.

The firm yet caring leadership of the Headteacher, supported with great loyalty and good humour by her Deputy Headteacher, is apparent all round the building throughout the day, and constantly reinforce her vision for her school.