

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **St Alban's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

St Alban's Close,  
Ashmore Park,  
Wednesfield,  
Wolverhampton, WV11 2PF

**Diocese: Lichfield**

Local authority: Wolverhampton

Dates of inspection: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Date of last inspection: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2004

School's unique reference number: 104364

Headteacher: Mrs. R Lawrence

Inspector's name: Mr A Gilroy National Society Number: 007

#### **School context**

St Alban's Church of England Primary School is a neighbourhood school serving the Ashmore Park and Coppice Farm estates in Wednesfield, Wolverhampton. An additional 32 pupils joined the school in September 2007 following the closure of another school locally. There has been significant staff illness and absence in recent times but this year the school has been very settled. A new vicar was appointed to the parish in September 2007 who is committed to re-establishing and developing close links between the parish and the school.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Alban's Church of England Primary School as a Church of England school are satisfactory**

Through aims, which are rooted in Christian values, the school makes sound provision for pupils of all abilities and background to all aspects of worship, learning and personal development. Christian values are promoted and reflected in the very good behaviour and discipline. Learners are encouraged to do their best within a happy and supportive, caring atmosphere.

#### **Established strengths**

- An ethos of care and respect derived from Christian values.
- An extremely supportive environment where staff work successfully to meet the requirements of the learners.
- The strong support for the school by the governors and the vicar.

#### **Focus for development**

- To ensure continuity and progression in acts of collective worship, develop a whole school approach through long and medium planning for each whole school, key stage and class acts of worship,
- Once the long and medium term plans for worship are in place, the staff and governors should monitor both the provision and the impact of the collective worship on the learners.
- Widen the pupils' understanding of the worldwide Anglican Church.

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

The Christian ethos in the school is evident in many ways, for example the concern and respect placed on the uniqueness of each individual. The school's values have a strong impact on the personal development of learners who are proud to be part of St Alban's Church of England Primary School. The learners are confident, happy in their school and very well behaved. The staff work hard to meet the needs of all the learners, ensuring that all children, no matter what their background or ability feel secure, safe, and able to learn. The learners are keen to talk about their teachers whom they like and respect, willingly follow instructions. The children have many opportunities to develop their leadership skills through a range of activities. There is an effective school council, which ensures that the learners have a voice in school decisions. This together with circle time means that the learners are experiencing good opportunities to be involved in decision-making. Learners are pleased to share what they have learned in religious education lessons, collective worship and in other areas of the curriculum. The range of material covered has contributed well to their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development. Pupil achievement is celebrated each week during assembly that strongly demonstrates the value of and commitment to pupil achievement in all aspects of school life. The atmosphere around school is relaxed and orderly. Relationships between learners and adults working in the school are excellent. Parents speak of the school as being happy and secure, where their children are respected and enjoy school.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory**

Worship occupies a central role in the life of the school and supports the pupils' spiritual and moral development. Whole school acts of worship take place in the multipurpose hall and are conducted in a well-organised and peaceful environment. The learners regard collective worship as enjoyable and special. There is a good level of interest from learners; listening well, responding willingly, joining in the singing, prayer and reflection, showing reverence and enjoyment. Hymns, prayers, some of which are which are recognisably Christian, plus other songs, are appropriate to those present. During the collective worship observed, the children displayed very good behaviour and showed that they were engaged by its content by responding in an appropriate, lively and interested way throughout. Both the head and the vicar acknowledge the importance of collective worship for the school. The learners are taught the Lord's Prayer and they know the school prayer well. Prayers are said in some classes at other times of day but this is not consistent throughout the school. Collective worship clearly contributes to the inclusive and accepting ethos of the school and emphasises the Christian principle that everyone is valued and deserves respect. The school visits the church once a year to celebrate St Alban's day, an event that has a significant impact on the learners who have good recall of the service. Although individual acts of worship are well planned and based on agreed themes, the impact is diminished as there is not a consistent theme throughout each week and some learners find it hard to recall the stories and messages that are taught. Currently there is no system in place to evaluate the impact of collective worship on the learners.

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

All the school community promote the Christian aims and ethos of the school led by the headteacher. She has a clear vision based on Christian values, and relationships between all members of the school community are excellent. The learning environment is a well ordered, purposeful and harmonious which is based on and reflects Christian values. Currently there are no foundation governors, a matter that the vicar is keen to rectify. The governing body do not evaluate the impact the ethos of the school has on the learners. The school is in the process of reviewing its aims and objectives with the vicar as they develop the vision and direction for the next few years. Parents are very positive about the school and the way that they are involved in their children's education. They like the ethos and are keen for their children to be taught in an establishment with such values. Parents appreciate the 'open door' policy and speed and effectiveness with which teachers and the head respond to any questions and concerns. Parental support for their children and the school is reflected in their good attendance at school celebrations, Pupils are familiar with and have experience of the local church, both for the annual St Alban's day service and as a resource for education topics.

SIAS report April 2008 St Alban's Church of England Primary School, St Alban's Close, Ashmore Park, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton , WV11 2PF