

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

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

St Alban's Road,  
West Leigh,  
Havant.  
PO9 2JX

#### **Diocese: Portsmouth**

LA: Hampshire

Dates of inspection: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Date of last inspection: July 2001

School's Unique reference number: 116362

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Alice Wood

Name of Incumbent/ Chaplain: Fr Paul Smith

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number: Alan Brown No. 256

#### **Preface**

St Alban's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary school is a one form entry school for pupils aged 4-11 with 220 on roll. The school runs breakfast and after school clubs.

#### **School Context**

A large minority of pupils attend a Christian place of worship and there are strong links with the local church. The school in partnership with the parish church has recently organised confirmation classes with several pupils being confirmed.

#### **Previous Inspection Details**

##### **Progress since the last inspection**

All of the issues noted in the last inspection report have been fully addressed.

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

St Alban's Primary School is an outstanding Church of England school. The Christian foundation of the school is immediately apparent on entry and the Christian ethos underpins all that takes place within the School. The staff are all able to identify the Christian ethos as being the most important reason for the success of the School. The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding, as is Religious Education.

#### **Established Strengths**

The Headteacher, staff, and the Governing Body create an outstanding, stimulating and secure school where the religious and spiritual life of the pupils and staff can grow and develop in a friendly, happy and creative environment. The Christian ethos is paramount and there is a vigour, vitality, energy and enthusiasm in the School. Worship and Religious Education are both outstanding as is the School's leadership and management. St Alban's success is built upon its Christian ethos and concern for the personal and spiritual development of pupils.

#### **Focus for Development**

- To continue to enhance the outstanding quality of Religious Education through the development of the pupils' self-evaluation.

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

The School's character is distinctively and overtly Christian. Outstanding provision is made to meet the spiritual, moral and emotional needs of all learners and the pupils are fully aware that St Alban's is a church school. A feature of the school is the quality of relationships between pupils and staff and between the staff themselves. Pupils speak very highly of the school, of its friendly atmosphere and the friends they make and retain. The pupils interviewed were confident, articulate, listened to each other and respected each other's opinions. They liked and trusted their teachers and the way in which they are taught. Pupils feel valued and affirmed in St Alban's where Christian values are integral to every aspect of school life. Pupils are polite, very well behaved and are instantly ready to help: they respond with ease and confidence in discussion. They enjoy the responsibilities the School encourages them to accept. St Alban's demonstrates how a church school with a strong Christian character can meet the academic, religious and spiritual needs of its pupils and its staff.

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

The opportunities for collective worship at St Alban's School are outstanding. Christian Worship is a central feature and strength of school life, not only in daily worship but also in the regular celebration of the Eucharist. The hall where worship takes place creates an excellent environment for Christian worship. All the pupils enjoyed the acts of collective worship inspected and talked readily and supportively of other occasions. Pupils sang very well indeed and the interaction between those leading worship and the ready and eager response of the pupils demonstrated the enthusiasm they have for worship. The Christian message was clear while remaining inclusive and open. There is a sense of warmth and enjoyment in the air during collective worship. The manner in which records are kept and worship is planned is exemplary. No pupils are withdrawn from collective worship.

**The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding**

RE is clearly a priority subject in the school. The documentation is excellent and the standards expected of the pupils are high. The subject is very well resourced with an excellent range of materials to support outstanding teaching across the school. The RE subject leader has worked very hard work, and with some success, to ensure teaching is well supported and colleagues have a wide range of materials to help them. Pupils' work is marked carefully and constructively, being encouraging while also identifying strengths and weaknesses. The miracle of the paralysed man in Year 2 and the exercise based on the story extended and challenged the pupils with the calibre of work produced being of the highest quality. Similarly the marriage at Cana with Year 3 was a stimulating and enjoyable lesson, very well taught with pupils responding with great enthusiasm and enjoyment. Pupils work willingly and effectively, responding readily to a variety of tasks with enthusiasm and enjoyment.

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

The inspirational leadership and aspirations of the Headteacher are shared by the Chaplain, the Governing Body, and her senior management team. The outstanding charismatic leadership is lively, thoughtful, while being relaxed and encouraging, creating a unified and mutually supportive staff. There is a dynamic sense of purpose in the school which allows and encourages staff to express their creativity as teachers while ensuring high educational standards are met. The Chaplain spoke eloquently and purposefully about the role of the School as a means of Christian witness and the manner in which the Christian character of the school enables the

church to reach out into the wider community. All staff and governors are fully committed to the improvement of the academic attainment of the pupils and to the belief that the spiritual and personal development of each pupil is paramount. Pupils enjoy coming to school for it is a place where they can grow knowing their concerns and anxieties will be listened to with professional and personal sympathy. The school works to develop maturity and reflection in the pupils. As one Year Six pupil said' *'I like the school very much but I feel ready to move on for greater opportunities'*. Christian values, faith and service, together with a clear educational vision, lie at the heart of St. Alban's. The link with a school in Ghana has been seminal in extending the Christian vision of the school and providing a practical initiative in which all pupils can feel they can participate. St. Alban's is a church school deeply committed to the personal and spiritual development of its pupils and to the wider communities it serves.

SIAS report June 2007 St Alban's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, St Alban's Road, West Leigh, Havant. PO9 2JX