

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Eccles.

Bardon Lane
Eccles
Manchester
M30 0FL

Diocese: Manchester

Local authority: Salford

Dates of inspection: 31st January 2008

Date of last inspection: 2nd, 4th and 8th July 2003

School's unique reference number: 105934

Headteacher: Mrs B.Schouten

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Angela C. Knowles 497

School context

St Andrew's CE Primary School serves a diverse community within a socially deprived area of Eccles. About two thirds of the pupils are of ethnic minority heritage and many are in the early stages of learning English. The school's roll varies from week to week. An increasing number of children are from Muslim families.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Andrew's as a Church of England school are good

It is evident St Andrew's is a Church school as you enter the building; a cross and prayers are prominently displayed. The quality of the relationships between all members of the school family and with the community in which it is placed are very good and highly valued. The dedicated and committed headteacher has facilitated significant progress in these areas during her appointment. The school celebrates 'faith' in its widest sense. The recently updated mission statement and aims of the school are based upon Christian values and have a positive impact on the personal and social development of the pupils.

Established strengths

- The quality of the leadership and management of the head teacher and other key staff
- A school community which is valued by all
- A caring inclusive ethos based on Christian values

Focus for development

- To review, reflect on and evaluate the Worship provision within school ensuring a clear understanding and distinction between assemblies and worship
- To develop and strengthen links with St Andrew's Church and its new priest-in-charge
- To develop further the self-evaluation processes 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

The Christian ethos of the school is strong and permeates every aspect of the day to day life of the school. The children at St Andrew's feel safe, secure, valued and special; they love their school. Although some pupils don't find their work easy they feel supported. The pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good. The school is totally committed to, and very effective in, the development of the whole child within a supportive school and wider community. The links with St Andrew's Church play an important part in this. All stakeholders feel valued and the relationships between all groups are strong. This enables the children to

feel that they are part of a large family which stretches beyond the school gates. The school council who are also peer mentors have an effective impact on the whole school community but are particularly valued by their fellow pupils. The atmosphere within school is orderly and calm. The school has an effective and positive policy for promoting good behaviour and there is outstanding support for the pupils who find this challenging. The internal environment reflects the importance of faith in school and its Christian character. Everyone feels confident to speak about their faith what ever that may be and feels that their faith is respected and valued. Every day ends with a period of reflection which enables pupils to apply faith based moral values to their personal decisions and actions.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

Worship is central to the life of the school and underpins its Christian character. Daily collective worship is inclusive, well planned and supports spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well. The pupils worship as a whole school on a daily basis. The respect for everyone's beliefs was demonstrated by many of the children assuming their preferred prayer positions. Parents and children value the worship, the children particularly enjoying contributing to and participating in the worship. During worship everyone is calm, focused and involved. The children demonstrated a good knowledge of the Bible stories. The recommendations at the last inspection to review worship in school, including the management of the worship programme and the involvement of the wider staff team, and to provide staff development opportunities have been addressed. The difference between assemblies and worship need to be clearly defined and understood by all. Children's moral development is increased well in worship because themes are planned well in advance and each week has a definite structure, reflecting the SEAL themes being studied. Pupils' knowledge of Christianity is satisfactory because the school's Anglican foundation is supported through links with St Andrew's Church. This has been identified as an area for future developments as there is a new Priest in Charge who regularly leads worship.

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

The head teacher provides good leadership of the school, as a church school, supported by a caring and committed staff, to whom her Christian vision is promoted effectively. The foundation governor demonstrates a clear commitment to the school's Christian purpose. The leaders and managers of the school have an in-depth knowledge of, and commitment to, the community the school serves. Everyone values the school as a church school. The parents value the contribution the head teacher makes to the school. All clearly articulate a Christian vision for the school which is supported and understood by all other members of the school community. There is a high level of co-operation between all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, and the parish and community. The support by the new priest in charge for the school is already having a beneficial impact on the Christian foundation. She regularly leads collective worship and intends to develop pastoral support for staff, children and parents.

SIAS report: January 2008 St Andrew's VC Primary School, Eccles.