

# National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

## St Ann's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

View Road  
Rainhill  
Prescot  
L35 0LQ

### Diocese: Liverpool

Local authority: St. Helens  
Dates of inspection: 24 March 2009  
Date of last inspection: 26/27 January 2006  
School's unique reference number: 104800  
Headteacher: Mrs. Rebecca Wilkinson  
Inspector's name and number: Dr. Jean Forward 625

### School context

St. Ann's is a larger than average sized primary school in Rainhill, St. Helens. The vast majority of pupils are of White British heritage from an area which is socially and economically mixed. The proportion of children eligible for free school meals is below the national average as is the proportion of pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities. There have been a number of staffing changes recently. The headteacher was appointed in April 2007.

### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St. Ann's as a Church of England school are good

An ethos based on a clear and explicit recognition of the school's Christian foundation underpins all aspects of daily life. Pupils refer with understanding to the school's mission statement "Always for God, each other and ourselves". A caring, friendly and supportive atmosphere rooted in Christian values enables all pupils to make progress and develop as individuals academically, personally, spiritually and socially.

### Established strengths

- A clear Christian vision which is central to the life and work of the school
- High quality relationships which are based on respect and trust and which contribute to the quality of care and guidance for pupils and their families
- Mutually beneficial and strong links with the parish church and local community

### Focus for development

- Develop strategies for monitoring worship to include pupils, staff and governors
- Extend assessment procedures for RE in order to ensure continuity, progression and appropriate challenge

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

The distinctive Christian ethos is evident in the way that everyone in the school community is valued. Pupils feel safe and secure and know that their contribution to daily life is important. Pupils are quietly confident and their manners and behaviour are exemplary. They demonstrate considerable respect for one another and are able to work as a team. Pupils speak of the opportunities to make friends and be part of a happy community. A wide range of extra-curricular activities supports pupils' individual interests and talents very well. Parents speak of the enthusiasm their children have for learning. They also speak well of the high standards of support and communication which keep them informed and involved in school life. Many pupils are spiritually aware and are able to talk very confidently about the importance of putting God at the centre of all that they do. They also show a good understanding of the needs of others. They speak about caring for one another and being

able to say sorry. Pastoral care and personal support are strengths and can be seen in the positive way staff and pupils relate to one another. An emphasis on inclusion makes it possible for all pupils to succeed. Pupils' achievements are celebrated regularly and self-esteem is high. Displays, Christian symbols and artefacts and classroom reflection areas are a constant reminder that the school is a place where the Christian faith is nurtured. The parish priest makes a positive contribution to the spiritual and worshipping life of the school. Pupils enjoy fundraising. Their dedicated efforts were recognised recently when a group was successfully nominated for the Young Person's Achievement Award.

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

Collective worship is a central part of the daily life of the school. It is approached with reverence and calm. Planning is thorough and reflects Christian values, major festivals and seasons. It develops and supports well pupils' understanding of the qualities needed to lead a Christian life. Good links are made to the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) themes. The pattern of worship provides a good balance of approaches which develop the pupils' awareness of the different ways in which they can come to God. Pupils prepare prayers and dramatic presentations with great understanding and they sing with confidence. They demonstrate a good level of participation and enjoyment through worship. Governors and families have the opportunity to attend acts of worship in school and in the church. Pupils learn Anglican responses and traditional prayers. This provides good support for their development as members of a worshipping community. The Key Stage 2 pupils attend a mid-week celebration of Holy Communion on a monthly basis and this helps them to feel part of the wider Christian family. Pupils have recently had the opportunity to evaluate worship and their responses will contribute to further development of the area. Broader monitoring of worship is required, however, to further the school's self-evaluation process.

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

Religious education is taught well through the revised diocesan syllabus. Staff subject knowledge is good. The recently appointed and enthusiastic co-ordinator is leading staff in a programme of Continual Professional Development (CPD) activities and a subject review. The school is introducing a broader approach to assessment and the application of "I can" statements. This informs planning and supports pupil progress. A successful programme of book scrutiny and subject monitoring is addressing inconsistencies in progression, the recording of work and the need for greater challenge in Year 5 and Year 6. Resources are being developed for all units of work. Staff use a range of teaching styles and resources to enhance pupils' learning. Pupils contribute to discussions with confidence. They demonstrate a good level of knowledge and understanding and enjoy working together and learning through role play. A range of learning activities incorporated into Year 4 teaching enabled pupils to use thinking skills when considering questions relating to trust. This contributed very well to their spiritual and personal development. The pupils' enthusiasm for the subject is reflected in their ability to draw on prior learning and express their thoughts and opinions clearly. Pupils in Year 1 say that they want to learn more about Jesus. Pupils demonstrate good levels of attainment through written tasks, illustrations and discussion.

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

The headteacher promotes strong and effective leadership. The positive and welcoming atmosphere in the school reflect the headteacher's dynamic and friendly approach. Parents emphasise the respect they have for the headteacher and her staff. An ethos of trust, support and corporate responsibility has been established. The headteacher works closely with the RE co-ordinator to ensure the effective promotion and development of the subject. Parents recognise the distinctive Christian qualities in the school and speak highly of the way pupils and their families are respected and valued. Foundation governors play an increasingly supportive role in the management of the school and welcome opportunities to be involved in the self-evaluation process and policy formation. They have a clear understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development. The parish priest works closely with the headteacher to develop further the partnership between the school and the parish church. The school is in a strong position to further promote and develop its Christian foundation.

