

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### St Gabriel's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Tonge Roughs  
Aspinal Street  
Middleton  
Manchester  
M24 2BE

**Diocese:** Manchester

Local authority: Rochdale MBC  
Dates of inspection: 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
Date of last inspection: 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April 2002  
School's unique reference number: 105808  
Headteacher: Mrs Janet Abbott  
Inspector's name and number: Carol Howard 437

#### School context

St Gabriel's is a smaller than average CE controlled school, with 182 pupils on roll. A significant number come from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and the majority of pupils are white British. The school has a high number of pupils who join the school, particularly in Key Stage 2 and over the past years there have been considerable staffing problems that are now resolved. The school holds the Investor In People award and the Sports England Active Mark.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Gabriel's CE Primary School as a Church of England school are good.

St Gabriel's CE Primary School provides a good, caring Christian learning environment where every child is valued. The church and the school are mutually supportive and there is a good system in place by which the School Council expresses the pupil voice. Children and staff are treated with respect and behaviour is good. The school takes pride in displaying children's work, which makes for an attractive working environment. Collective acts of worship enable children to develop spiritually and morally and to reflect on their attitudes and values.

#### Established strengths

- Pupil involvement and consultation have a good effect on attitudes and behaviour.
- The school promotes good caring relationships between all members of the school community.
- The school celebrates and fosters close links with the church and the parish to support children in becoming active members of the community.

#### Focus for development

- The governors should evaluate how distinct and effective the school is as a church school.
- Governors should introduce a system of monitoring and evaluating the collective acts of worship in the school, taking account of the views of pupils and parents.

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

St Gabriel's is a happy and harmonious Christian community, where children enjoy learning and socialising. Pupils make very good spiritual, moral and social development and good cultural development. Their spiritual development is very effective and is encouraged through class discussions, circle times, collective worship, where pupils take an active role within a colourful and stimulating environment, which celebrates the work of the children. A range of

displays raises the pupils' spiritual awareness e.g. a Peace display and one on Noah were prominent as well as crucifixes throughout the school and copies of the school prayer, which staff, pupils and parents know by heart. Pupils' moral development is effectively encouraged through the strong pupil voice of the school and this has an excellent effect on behaviour and attitudes to learning. Key stage 2 pupils play an active role on the School Council and Playground Pals and they undertake a variety of tasks that give them responsibilities in the school e.g. preparing the fruit for Key Stage 1 pupils and helping midday supervisors with younger pupils at lunchtime. The social development of the children is very actively encouraged through a range of extracurricular activities organised by both the staff and the church. The Vicar is very visible in the school and has recently qualified as a teaching assistant (TA2) so that he can work with Year 6 pupils on the Springboard Maths programme. Pupils value the after-school Bible Club, which he organises; also "Trailblazers" is run by the school caretaker, who is a churchwarden. The children show very good understanding and concern for the needs of others through supporting a range of charities including Barnardos, Marie Curie Cancer Care, the local hospice and the Good Samaritan Shoebox Appeal. Pupils' cultural development is enhanced by such activities as a visit from a Nigerian citizen, an African drumming workshop and through a display of harvesting in Nigeria and a One-World display on Africa. The policy for SMSC guidance demonstrates the importance placed on the need to value the work of every child and to 'learn about our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of the spirit'. The effect of this policy is clearly seen through the children recognising that these gifts are love, joy, peace, patience and kindness.

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

Pupils enjoy collective worship at school because of the variety of styles, themes and leaders, including the vicar, Headteacher and members of staff. They willingly take an active role in presenting worship themes and join in singing with enthusiasm. Worship continues to make an effective impact in the curriculum since the themes are developed in circle time and in personal, social, health and citizenship education. The children gain a good knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and practice since acts of worship are consistently and recognisably Christian and celebrate or commemorate the main events of the Christian calendar. Pupils also worship the main Christian festivals at St Gabriel's Church. They show an appropriate sense of reverence in the way they enter and leave the assembly in a quiet and orderly manner. Their spiritual development is clearly enhanced by their involvement in worship and by the importance it plays in affirming and celebrating the values and ethos of the school. The strength of collective worship is reflected in the policy and planning.

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

The well established Headteacher provides good, clear, purposeful and effective leadership and places the Christian character of the school at the heart of her leadership. Through the RE curriculum, children are well supported towards a good knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, the Bible and the place of prayer in Christian life. There are strong links between St Gabriel's Church and the School, for example, a board in the foyer displays information about church and diocesan events. The vicar, who is the chair of governors, plays a full part in the educational, pastoral, spiritual and worshipping life of the school and several of the TAs in the school are Sunday school teachers. Governors are fully involved in the leadership and management of the school. All are link governors and meet with the respective lead teacher in order to be well informed about targets and standards. Relationships throughout the school community are good and this is reflected in the regard that parents and governors have for the school. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and kindness.