

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St. Paul's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Nevile Road
Salford
M7 3PT

Diocese: Manchester

Local authority: Salford

Dates of inspection: Monday 28th January 2008

Date of last inspection: May 2003

School's unique reference number: 105941

Headteacher: Mrs Maureen Munday

Acting Headteacher at the time of the Inspection Mr Lee Ashton

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Gail E Branch

School context

St Paul's is situated in the outskirts of Salford and serves an established community where most pupils are of white British heritage. However, an increasing number of pupils are of East European origin. Both the percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals and those identified as having learning difficulties and/or disabilities is below average. Skill levels on entry to the nursery are typical of those found nationally. St. Paul's is a below average size primary school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Paul's as a Church of England school are satisfactory

The school and foundation governors are working closely together to improve further the effectiveness of the school as a church school. The recent initiatives introduced by the acting headteacher are having a positive impact and the senior management team and governors recognise the need to be more rigorous in their approach to monitoring and evaluation so that they can continue to develop and improve.

Established strengths

- The quality of relationships within the school, demonstrating Christian care and concern for one another.
- An improvement in the links with the church community and an effective partnership between school, church and parents.

Focus for development

- To continue to develop the planning for worship linked to the weekly/termly themes and to maintain these records.
- To develop written evaluation records for worship involving various members of the school and church community.
- To continue highlighting the denominational nature of the school, developing the classroom worship and involving the children on a more regular basis.

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

This satisfactory school meets the needs of learners satisfactorily due to the care, guidance and support the pupils receive. Whilst there are clear signs that this is an improving school there is academic underachievement for pupils in KS2. The school supports the Every Child Matters agenda and the Mission Statement is rooted in Christian values. The quality of relationships is good as is the personal development and well being of the pupils. Parents, visitors to the school and governors speak well about St Paul's and place particular emphasis

on the caring, friendly atmosphere in the school. The School Council, comprised of Year 6 pupils, makes a satisfactory contribution so that pupils know that their views are taken into account. They also feel confident to go to any member of the school community with their problems; they commented that there is always someone to go to if they have a problem. Parents think highly of the way in which the school cares for their children and they value the developing links with the church and the increased involvement by members of the church community. There is a weekly Good News Assembly, which is valued and enjoyed by the learners. Attitudes and behaviour management are good and children understand their responsibilities; the older children are proud to act as playground buddies and enjoy helping one another at lunchtime. They respond positively to Golden Time activities and say their teachers support them well. Spiritual development is satisfactory.

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

Worship is satisfactory; it is beginning to play a central role in the life of the school and, as links with the church develop, it is also beginning to celebrate the school's Christian foundation. The children responded satisfactorily to questions about Collective Worship, about their favourite hymns, about the different approaches and how they enjoy this aspect of school life. They enjoy contributing to school worship and participate in a variety of services held at the church. The school is beginning to develop its planning in a more meaningful way, the acting Headteacher planning the themes for the term. Although there is no evidence of any formal evaluation taking place, the children could talk enthusiastically about the developments and improvements they felt had recently taken place. They were particularly enthusiastic about the improvement in the environment for worship in their classrooms and the inclusion of a prayer corner with candles, prayer books, Bibles and a cross to help them to focus during worship time. The improving links with the church and the input from the vicar and other members of the church community ensures that pupils are beginning to experience different forms of worship that enable them to have a satisfactory understanding of Anglican traditions.

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

The acting head teacher has already made an impact on the quality of the worship taking place in the school and with the support of the staff and governors is gradually improving the distinctiveness of the school as a church school. Much time, thought and effort has been put into developing the quality of the R.E. syllabus in the school and clergy are keen to support some aspects of the R.E. delivery. The governors are supportive of the school and there is a willingness and capacity to improve the school as a Christian school. They recognise the need to improve their monitoring and evaluation role in terms of the distinctiveness and effectiveness of St. Paul's as a church school if they are to be more effective and have more of an impact on the spiritual development of the children. There is significant involvement from the Rector and curate, who actively involve themselves in visits and contribute to the spiritual and moral development of the children. The children also benefit from the involvement of other members of the church community taking assemblies and providing music for hymn practice. The SMT recognise the need to carry out the recommendations from the previous report and continue to build on the recent initiatives introduced by the acting headteacher.