

# National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

## Trinity St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Trinity Square  
South Woodham Ferrers  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM3 5JX

### Diocese: CHELMSFORD

Local authority: Essex  
Dates of inspection: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007  
School's unique reference number 115200:  
Headteacher: Mr Keith Bannister  
Inspector: Mr Richard Maudsley Section 48 Inspector Number 305

### School context

Trinity St Mary's is an average size one form entry primary school. Pupils come to the school from a range of economic backgrounds. The proportion of children on free school meals is very low. The number of pupils with English as an additional language and special needs is very low. Nearly all the pupils are from white British backgrounds with a very small percentage from ethnic minority families. Pupil attainment upon entry to the school is slightly above average. Levels of unauthorised absence are low and attendance is consistently above the national average. There have been no exclusions in the past academic year.

### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Trinity St Mary's as a Church of England school are good with some outstanding features.

This is a good school that has an outstanding Christian ethos and purpose, which permeates its life and the attitude of those working within the school. The design of the school is unique built around the church which shares the site with a Catholic school. There is a warm welcoming, caring atmosphere that is clearly evident in the relationship between clergy, staff, governors and pupils. The school has a clear vision and a sense of purpose about its role as a Christian foundation within the local community. This is reflected in the School Self Evaluation Form.

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### Established strengths

- The outstanding Christian ethos that helps provide a firm foundation for the school and its members reflected in 'Every Child Matters'
- The strong leadership of the Head teacher and Governors in creating a vision of inclusiveness based upon the School Motto 'Many Hearts Make A School' embracing values of care and respect for everyone.
- The unique relationship with the neighbouring Roman Catholic Primary School.

### Focus for development

- To appoint a new Head teacher with vision and energy who can continue to develop and expand the school.
- To empower the RE Co-ordinator to develop and expand her vision of how RE can become a fully integrated part of the curriculum and to devise systems for gathering observational assessments during RE lessons.
- To work towards developing confidence and skills of all staff teaching RE.

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

The Christian ethos of the school is very strong and is apparent in all areas of school life. From documentation and displays to learning and teaching. The commitment to meeting the needs of the pupils is passionately driven by the Head teacher ably supported by the

teaching staff and the Governing Body who help create an environment of care and respect in which all children can flourish. The Christian foundation and ethos is reflected through the quality of corridor and class displays.

There are prominent displays of wooden crosses in classrooms. The words of The Lord's Prayer along with children's prayers and writing are clearly displayed. Supporting this are written policies and statements. Children in Y5 were receiving additional Bible based teaching as part of their curriculum this term from a member of the local community.

Evidence of this caring attitude was observed during the inspection. Pupils feel comfortable secure and valued within the school. Pupils respond with excellent behaviour and a willingness and confidence to talk openly about their school.

The school seeks to serve the whole community and the ecumenical feature of having Anglicans and Roman Catholics using the same church which is part of the school are an outstanding feature. Parents spoke of 'There being a special atmosphere in the school with a warm welcome.' Governors play an active role within the structures of the school and provide valuable support.

The regular and welcome involvement of the Vicar helps maintain and strengthens the ties between church the school and wider community. **1**

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

The school places great importance upon collective worship in its daily life. The school has direct access to the Parish Church which is shared with the Roman Catholics. The Head teacher is the Worship Co-ordinator. The school observed not only all the major Christian festivals, but attention was given towards raising awareness of the multi-faith world and their religions.

The act of worship witnessed during the inspection took place in the church and was fully in keeping with the Anglican tradition. It centred around the Presentation of Christ in the Temple and provided opportunity for praise, teaching and reflection, as well as offering spiritual guidance and support. **2**

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

The RE Co-ordinator recently appointed to the position is enthusiastic and keen to provide clear leadership and support which will impact on the quality of teaching, planning, learning, assessment and help move RE teaching forward. across the school.

The school uses a variety of resource material. At Key Stage 2 the Essex guidelines are followed while at Key Stage 1 the co-ordinator along with the staff are looking towards creating a syllabus that will meet the demands of KS1 and the Foundation Stage.

Children were keen and enthusiastic about RE. Members of the School Council were able and willing to share their faith and belief talking openly about what makes the school a distinctive place.

Prayers are said at the end of the day and pupils spoke openly about giving to those less fortunate' and sharing with their fellow pupils from St. Joseph's Catholic school.

The art feature in the library is an excellent example of how RE can be used in developing cross curricular links. The children's knowledge of Bible stories and the life of Jesus are good. Every child throughout the school has their own Bible which is used regularly.

Book sampling showed that pupils were looking a multi faith issues. One pupil spoke about 'Learning about other people's faith as being important.' **2**

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

The leadership and management of the school are good. The Headteacher has moulded a responsive and dedicated team of teachers and other stake holders, recognising strength in others and encouraging the team of adults to support each other and the children. The Headteacher is committed to raising the effectiveness and quality of teaching and promoting solid Christian values. Parents approve strongly of the ethos of the school and are pleased that their children receive a good Christian based education with a strong emphasis on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Parents hoped that the new appointment would also continue with a strong Christian tradition. The staff work together and morale is good. The school is well supported by the Governors, the Diocese and the Local Authority. Staff recognise the need for improvement and there is an excellent climate for future development in the school. There is a sense of mutual respect and trust for all stakeholders which goes towards making the school a happy and successful place. **2**

SIAS report January 31<sup>st</sup> 2007 Trinity St Mary VA School CM 3 5JX