

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Wardley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Moss Bank Road
Swinton
M27 9XB

Diocese: Manchester

Local authority: Salford
Dates of inspection: 16 October 2007
Date of last inspection: February 2003
School's unique reference number: 105940
Headteacher: Mrs C A Farrimond
Inspector's name: Mr T Croasdale

School context

The school is situated on the outskirts of Manchester and is slightly smaller than average, with 200 pupils. It serves an area of mixed housing with the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals broadly in line with national averages. Very few children are from minority ethnic backgrounds.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Wardley C of E Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding

Christian principles are at the heart of all that the school seeks to do. The school's mission statement is to provide a caring, Christian community and evidence of the high quality relationships which exists between all members of the school community support this view. Pupils say that they enjoy coming to school and they take pride in their work. They are very comfortable to express their opinions on Wardley as a church school and all stake holders say that they feel valued and that their views are listened to.

Established strengths

- The very positive behaviour and high quality relationships which promote personal development.
- The inclusive Christian ethos which values the contribution of every individual and enables children, teachers and support staff to develop confidence and self esteem.
- The strong commitment and shared vision for improvement of the school leadership team, staff and governors.
- The outstanding Christian leadership shown by the Head Teacher.
- Collective Worship which affirms the Christian faith, challenges thinking and offers a variety of format and content which encourage participation and involvement.

Focus for development

- To extend opportunities for whole school involvement in planning and evaluating acts of Collective Worship.

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

Christian values permeate the heart of the school and greatly impact upon the supportive ethos of the whole school community. Working within this Christian ethos, learners and adults have used SEAL materials in circle time and Acts of Worship resulting in excellent personal progress being made in learners' spiritual, moral and emotional development. All learners behave very well and feel valued and special. They are treated in school with respect and feel secure, happy and confident that they are valued for who they are. School

council members and prefects work hard to deal quickly with any minor disagreements on the playground, encouraging a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness. Everyone works collaboratively and co-operatively; learners and adults are more than happy to speak openly about their beliefs, feelings and values. There are bright colourful displays around school which celebrate learner's achievements and support learning well. Pupils are able to discuss in detail the content of Christian displays around school.

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

There is a well planned and varied programme of acts of Collective Worship within the Anglican tradition. All children share in the celebrations of the major Christian festivals, which are often held in church, as well as celebrating some of the main festivals of other world faiths in school. Children are well aware of the importance of worship and they participate with enthusiasm and reverence. Particularly impressive was the worship demonstrated by the J.A.M. Club (Jesus and Me). It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm generated by this over subscribed club. The pupil-led act of worship during the inspection had a distinct Christian message and also provided an effective bridge to the newly introduced SEAL materials. Children make very good spiritual development as a result of their experience of collective worship, including prayer, reflection and an effective atmosphere created by music and pupils' own poetry. Pupils' experience of Anglican and other forms of worship is good and enhanced by links with the local clergy. Their understanding of Christian practices such as baptism and marriage is also improved by their visits to church. Collective worship has a high status in school because the headteacher co-ordinates, plans and reviews it.

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

The Head Teacher leads by Christian example and is successful in her aim in ensuring that the children receive the best possible education within a Christian environment. She is fully supported by members of staff who in turn respond with their own contributions to the overall management and vision of the school. There is a real sense of togetherness, with everybody working as one family in Christian witness. The school council is effective in providing children from across the school with opportunities to take initiatives, make decisions and resolve issues. The children have been involved in the Healthy Schools Initiative and various other measures in the Every Child Matters Agenda. Governors are well informed and involved in school life as are the parents. The courteous, considerate and caring behaviour displayed by the children is there for all to see and reflects great credit on the school. There are numerous examples of the school forming good links with the local community which all contribute to the overall view that leadership and management are strengths of the school.