



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Maud Street
Rochdale
OL12 0EL

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Manchester

Local authority: Rochdale

Dates of inspection: 26 May 2016

Date of last inspection: January 2011

School's unique reference number: 105829

Head teacher: Sharon Hardy

Inspector's name and number: Angela Knowles 497

School context

The school is an averaged sized primary school. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for pupil premium funding is above average with the deprivation indicator being significantly above average. The proportion of children with special educational needs is below average but rising. The school serves an ethnically and religiously diverse community with the proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups being well above average. For many of these pupils English is an additional language. The school is popular and because of this oversubscribed. A short Ofsted inspection was carried out on 23 February 2016. The school retained its judgement of good.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of All Saints CE Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Explicitly articulated and deeply embedded Christian values of the school underpin its excellent relationships with all the school family and the children's excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning.
- The inspiring and clear leadership of the school by the head teacher, enhanced by governors and senior leaders, has resulted in a worshipping community where those of no faith and all faiths can join together as one.
- Christian commitment and values motivate the pastoral support to families which ensures there is mutual and substantial benefit to the children, the school and the community.

Areas to improve

- In order to further raise achievement and attainment in Religious Education (RE), embed the newly adopted curriculum with its raised expectations and develop assessment without levels.
- Enhance spiritual development through the recently formed worship committee by developing links with the church and parents so that worship develops further as something the whole school family can experience together.

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

Christian values are central to every aspect of school life and are underpinned as the mission statement says 'within a framework of Christian teaching'. Displays around school and within all classrooms exemplify the Christian values of love, kindness, friendship, honest, respect, forgiveness and compassion. These support children's spiritual development extremely well, reminding them of the presence of God in their school. Children staff, parents and governors articulate these consistently and demonstrate them through very positive relationships and attitudes to worship and learning. A parent whose child moved to secondary school a few years ago spoke of the way in which Christian values learnt at All Saints school had shaped his child's life and opened many supportive opportunities. Even though he himself did not profess a faith, he could see how important the Christian values had been. The school community describes itself as a family and this was endorsed by everyone. Relationships between all parts of the school family are solid and there is a tangible sense of Christian love and care. The work of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) lead is important and valued at All Saints and ensures families are supported in Christian love when a need arises. As a result, children are safe, ready and able to learn. RE provides a rich and varied curriculum for learning about and learning from religion and the children are given ample opportunities to reflect on new experiences and knowledge. The new curriculum adopted by the school is being used effectively. Staff are monitoring its implementation closely to make sure it focuses on the needs of the children in the school so that their achievement and attainment opportunities are maximised. Children begin school working below expectation and make excellent progress so that they leave with results above the national average. Pupils say they love their 'friendly' school and want to come to school. The crucial link between attendance and achievement is strongly promoted to parents and is an ongoing focus of the school's Christian care for and commitment to every child. The strong Christian ethos secures these positive outcomes. Children are pleased to speak to visitors and staff and do so with confidence and courtesy.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship plays a central role in school life whether it takes place in the hall for whole school worship or in the more intimate contexts of the classroom. Worship is also regularly held in church where parents of all faiths and none join the children. All valued the opportunity to be part of the worshipping community and the walk from school to church for the 'Twinkle Service' at Christmas tide. This was a special time for both adults and children. Whilst recognising the differing religious backgrounds represented in school, the Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ underpin worship. Christian values and the church's year are also part of the structure as are themes from the school's scheme for personal, social, citizenship and health education. The school has recently formed a worship committee with membership from Years 5 and 6. The children enthusiastically support the planning of worship, and they wrote and performed a short but effective Bible based sketch for the worship observed during the inspection. Other children had written beautifully thought provoking prayers. All pupils were focused, responsive and reflective during this act of worship, showing what an important part of their day this was. The committee now intends to develop and expand to include possibly parents, church members and governors to build on the already valued opportunities to worship together. The diversity of the school community has no effect on Christian worship in school. If anything it enhances it and all value the opportunities to come together as one family. The hall has a beautiful focus table and next to it stands the values tree displaying the school's core Christian values. Behind the table on the wall is a range of prayers which have been written by the children demonstrating their care for each other. Children spoke of their 'quiet spaces', two being outside and an area identified in each classroom. In each room the space set aside was well resourced and included a Bible, candle and cross. The children explained that these represented God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and they could to some extent describe the

Trinity. The point for improvement from the last inspection around diverse provision within acts of worship has been fully met.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Standards of attainment and progress in RE are high. The baseline is low therefore children make very good progress as evidenced in the work sample. The variety of activities and first hand experiences provided for the children enable them to understand the impact of faith on believers. The highly effective teaching and learning strategies used ensure each child's knowledge about Christianity and of other religions is deepening as they move through school. The book scrutiny demonstrated how expectations and learning develop across school and the floor books showed the huge range of activities including visits, visitors and group work experienced by all. Children enjoy RE and talk excitedly about what they have experienced and learnt. During the three lessons observed, one from each key stage, all children were fully engaged in the learning and work was differentiated so that all could make progress. Talk partners are used really effectively in all classes. Teachers' subject knowledge is good and those observed show a confidence in the subject and are enthusiastic. The subject is effectively led by the coordinator who monitors regularly. The school has recently adopted a new curriculum and the effectiveness and impact of this is being closely monitored. Modifications are expected to be made to ensure the curriculum is right for the needs of these children. This implementation and changes have ensured the focus for development from the last inspection around the development of the RE curriculum has been achieved and is now developing further. Teaching staff have received regular CPD in the teaching and content of the new curriculum. They have strong links with the diocese which support these activities. Books are marked in line with the policy for all subjects. Assessment of progress is in line with the new policy and shows that during the past two terms progress has been made so that a decreasing number of children are working below expectations, most are working at the expected level and a growing number are working above. Children speak enthusiastically about charity work and they understand the importance of following Jesus's command to love our neighbours.

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

The head teacher's Christian vision is supported by the whole school community and lived out in action. This vision is strong and clearly articulated based on the Christian model of servanthood dedicated to meeting the challenging and ever-changing needs of the community served by the school. The head teacher is planning to review the mission statement. The statement was written a number of years ago and although it does reflect the schools Christian ethos the school is now a multi faith community and it is felt that it may be strengthened in this respect. Governors are actively involved in the life of the school. They are well informed and access relevant training. There are clear action plans for both collective worship and RE and the governors spoke about both and the effectiveness of previous action points. The incumbent has strengthened the valued links between school and church. He leads worship in school regularly and for all major Christian festivals worship takes place in the church and parents with faith and none value these opportunities. A parent from another faith explained how comfortable he feels in church and how important he felt it was to worship together. He felt that this is really important as we live together in a multi faith country. The high level of pastoral care is rooted in Christian love and has a significant impact on the whole school family seen through the school's own Early Help offer. Pupils have real opportunities for leadership responsibilities through school council and the recently formed worship committee. The RE coordinator and the head teacher have clear strategies in place for continuing improvements. When the parents were asked how they would sum up the leaders and staff at All Saints school they said, 'We know our children are in safe hands'. All of the school family are overwhelmingly positive and proud to be a part of All Saints School.

