



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St John's Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School

Clarence Road

Longsight

Manchester

M13 0YE

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Good

Diocese: Manchester

Local authority: Manchester

Date of inspection: 19th May 2016

Date of last inspection: 15th May 2011

School's unique reference number: 105504

Acting Head of School: Karen Mortlock

Inspector's name and number: Stephen Burrow 622

School context

St John's CE is a larger than an average-sized primary school in an urban area. The very large majority of pupils are from minority ethnic groups, with about three-quarters being of Pakistani or Bangladeshi heritage. Others come from a wide range of different groups. A very high proportion of pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities is above the national average. The school leadership is undergoing a period of re-structuring and extra classrooms are being built to accommodate rising numbers on roll.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St John's, as a Church of England school are good

- Committed Christian leadership promotes the school's ethos based on gospel values whilst celebrating the diversity of the school community.
- The whole school community is reflective and respectful of the views of others. It explores and celebrates the commonalities and shared values between Christianity and Islam
- Pupils' good behaviour strongly reflects the school's explicit Christian values and excellent relationships enhance school life for both pupils and staff.
- The high levels of care, nurture and guidance with everyone valued as an individual, shows the distinctive Christian ethos of the school in action. This enables all pupils to grow academically, spiritually and socially.

Areas to improve

- Establish ways for pupils to be more involved in the planning of worship, so that their ideas and thoughts can be shared and discussed with a view to enriching the experience of worship.
- Refine the evaluation of collective worship to include all who deliver worship, especially the pupils, in order to inform future planning and lead to on-going improvement.
- To develop the use of classroom reflection areas, to encourage and facilitate opportunities for pupils to engage in personal reflection and prayer.

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

The distinctive Christian character is evident in all areas of school life and is central to its ethos and vision. Pupils say with confidence that their school is a very safe place where everyone's beliefs and views are respected. Adults provide excellent role models displaying the school's Christian values. Relationships between all members of the school community are strong. There is a calm and purposeful atmosphere throughout the school, where pupils treat each other and all adults with great respect and care. Teachers know each pupil as a unique individual and ensure that their academic and personal needs are fully met. Pupils are eager to accept roles of responsibility as demonstrated in the keenly sought after roles on the School Council, Pupil Pastoral and Education Teams and as Peer Mediators. The school's values are prominently displayed in corridors, each with comments written by the pupils and staff. These allow pupils to reflect on how each is relevant in their own faith. These are a focal point, providing both reflection and discussion opportunities which help to develop pupils' spirituality. The whole school community shows great respect for diversity and difference and pupils have a good knowledge and understanding of each other's faiths. Parents of all faith backgrounds appreciate the school's affirmation of all expressions of faith through its Christian character, values and religious education (RE) lessons. They value the school's respect for their beliefs and the desire for a shared happy life, rooted in compassion. Parents say that each pupil thrives and grows, accepted as they are. This, together with the strong emphasis on care for others, makes an exceptional contribution to pupils' outstanding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The school's strong emphasis on caring for others leads pupils to raise money for charities such as 'Mary's Meals', a charity that raises money to feed children around the world. Pupils of different faiths worship together, comparing and understanding the similarities and differences of their faiths. In RE pupils learn about different faiths and a global outlook is embedded across the school's curriculum. Consequently pupils have a good understanding of beliefs and customs of different cultures and are prepared well for life in our diverse global society. Sensitivity and respect for the beliefs of others are intertwined very effectively within the school's Christian character so that the needs of everyone are fully met.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship is central to school life, giving pupils and adults opportunities to share Christian values and the distinctiveness of the school. These are then reinforced throughout daily school life. One pupil said, 'In worship we talk about the values which you can see in school'. Themes are well planned and delivered through whole school, key stage and class led worship. There are opportunities to worship in church and the Reverend Canon regularly leads worship in school. There is a strong emphasis on Christian values and pupils have a good understanding of the nature of worship and the Christian faith. Planning includes Christian themes and the celebration of Christian festivals as well as learning about special events in other world religions. The sensitive presentation of the gospel and careful introductions to prayer and reflection ensure that everyone feels engaged and included in worship. Pupils and members of staff are comfortable in their participation in worship. Pupils display a strong spiritual awareness, valuing opportunities for prayer, silence and reflection time provided throughout the day. Pupils agreed that worship is a time to think about people who need our help. It also helps pupils and staff to consider the significance of Christian beliefs for themselves. One member of staff explained the importance of knowing about world faiths, saying, 'We need to understand and respect the beliefs of other faiths as we expect them to respect and value our beliefs'. As a result, pupils' awareness of Christianity as a worldwide faith is very well embedded, enabling them to understand and make clear links between beliefs and practices of different faiths. All members of staff attend and lead

collective worship, thus reinforcing its importance to the whole community. Pupils enter worship with a sense of expectation and reverence. On the inspection day pupils assisted the Reverend Canon in demonstrating how our actions affect others. This was linked to how the charity 'Mary's Meals' raises money to feed children in deprived areas of the world. The worship leader effectively monitors worship planning and delivery. The school recognises, however, that pupils are not yet fully involved in the planning or evaluation of worship themes and has plans to address this

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

The distinctive Christian character and vision recognises and caters for pupils from a variety of backgrounds, enabling all to learn together in God's love. It is upheld by all members of the school community and supported by high levels of respect for each other's beliefs. This can be seen in the strong, nurturing relationships, which permeate the school. The determined approach of school leaders to promote inclusion and diversity ensures that all pupils are valued and encouraged. The school is at the heart of the diverse community it serves. As a result, it is able to unite different faiths through its Christian worship, values and RE teaching. This is clearly reflected in the pupils' attitudes and their respect towards others, built on shared values between the different faiths. The Reverend Canon maintains strong links between the church and school. The acting head of school and senior leaders have a clear understanding of what it means to lead a church school and carry out their roles effectively. They are well supported by school staff and an effective governing body. The successful leadership is enhanced by a close working relationship with the Reverend Canon. As a result prayer, pastoral and other links between church and school are effectively interwoven. Governors have a clear and effective understanding of their role within the life of the school. They place great importance on supporting every pupil to achieve their very best within a nurturing environment based on Christian principles. They have regular involvement in the life of the school through frequent visits and receive information on developments in RE and worship through reports from the headteacher. All staff are valued and inducted well into what is expected of them in relation to promoting the Christian ethos of the school, whilst celebrating an understanding and respect for other faiths. The chair of governors is currently undertaking the 'Governor Leadership in Church Schools' course, which will lead on to training for all governors. Pupils take their responsibilities seriously and are confident that their voice is heard. Their ideas and opinions are valued and acted upon. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. They say the school listens to their views and that their children enjoy school where they are happy, safe and nurtured. They say the school demonstrates respect, compassion, tolerance and patience. Parents agreed that the school works hard to involve them and keep them informed. There are well-attended parent workshops, ensuring that strong links are forged and sustained with parents and local community. Parents are highly supportive of the school. On the day of the inspection one parent said, 'They don't only care for our children, they care for us and help us to care for our children'.