



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Barton Lane
Eccles
Manchester M30 0FL

Previous SIAS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Good

Diocese: Manchester

Local authority: Salford

Dates of inspection: 14 July 2016

Date of last inspection: March 2011

School's unique reference number: 105934

Headteacher: Karen Leyland

Inspector's name and number: Nigel Castledine (652)

School context

St Andrew's is a smaller than average sized Church of England primary school serving a community that includes areas of high social deprivation. The number of pupils from minority ethnic families is high and just over half the children speak English as an additional language. The percentage of disadvantaged children is above average as is the percentage for children with special educational needs or disability. There are fewer girls at the school than the national average. Since the last inspection there have been significant changes within the school's staff team and the governing body.

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

- The school's distinctive Christian ethos underpins the careful nurture and rich education of every pupil, in response to Jesus' challenge for all to love God and to love each other
- Core Christian values motivate the children to aim high and strive for ambitious personal goals in life
- Mutually respectful and trusting relationships based on gospel values engender a positive atmosphere between all members of the school community which enables the children to flourish
- The use of 'Philosophy for Children' techniques support children in deepening their thinking as they consider the challenging questions of life and belief

Areas to improve

- Widen the scope of governors' ongoing scrutiny of school effectiveness to include formal evaluation of the impact of the Christian distinctiveness of St Andrew's
- Support the children to develop the skills to plan and deliver acts of collective worship with growing confidence and increasing independence
- Extend evaluations of worship to ensure the views of children and adults are fed into future planning and development

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

The school uses its pervasive Christian ethos to support every child within its caring, family atmosphere where everyone is treated with respect and love. The school has selected the core Christian values of love, honesty, forgiveness, and respect as being most important to a harmonious school community. These are equally applicable to children of the main faiths within the school family. Christian values influence the positive relationships that help all to be able to forgive, learn and move on from mistakes with a fresh start. The school has clear 'golden rules' which stem from the Christian values. These encourage good behaviour from the vast majority of children. Bullying is a very rare occurrence. Children are well aware of what to do if they should experience derogatory racist or homophobic treatment. They know staff are always ready to listen and support them. Christian values drive forward the school's emphasis on academic success. St Andrew's has been identified as one of the top 100 performing and improved English schools in 2016. Many children arrive in school well below expected level of achievement. Careful identification and support for educational and social needs makes sure children are able to benefit from school life and its learning opportunities. Because of this, children leave Year 6 at or above national average levels of attainment. Children also enjoy the exciting challenges of graduation from the Children's University. Attendance figures are high and show that children like to be in school. Children enjoy showing Christian service to others by taking roles of responsibility in school life. One child commented, 'As a peer mediator I can make sure everyone is happy to be who they are'. Children also show concern for others through their charitable giving to both local and international good causes. Social, moral, spiritual and cultural learning is an important, integral part of the curriculum. Children have many opportunities within the curriculum and worship to explore and challenge their own assumptions. They grow in understanding of local and global lifestyles, cultures and faiths. A child commented, 'Respecting each other means not judging people by their religion, race or way of life'. This open attitude is integral to the children's learning in religious education (RE). Good RE teaching maintains the same high level of learning standards as in other core subjects.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship is an important central element in school life. It is distinctly Christian and carefully linked to the school's core Christian values. This helps children to explore their meaning and personal significance. Themes for worship are clearly referenced to the teachings of Jesus Christ in the gospels, so that the children understand their Biblical source. Comprehensive and thoughtful worship plans include the major festivals of the Christian year. They also reference social and emotional aspects of learning. Elements of Anglican tradition are seen in the visual stimulus of a worship table with cross, Bible and candles. Children have an age-appropriate understanding of the Christian tradition of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Respecting the faith mix of the school community, worship also reflects on the teachings of Islam and other world faiths at appropriate times. Children of faith and those of no particular belief find worship stimulating and join in enthusiastically. The singing of worship songs is impressively sincere and confident. Prayer and reflection are an integral part of worship, and the school prayer is said regularly. Those who choose not to join in prayer show great respect for others at these times. Prayer is not confined to worship but also takes place during the day. A well-used quiet room is provided for children to reflect or pray on their own. Children of any faith wanting to explore belief in greater depth can join the weekly 'Jesus and Me' (JAM) club. This is led by the vicar who also leads school worship fortnightly. Other leaders of worship include classroom staff and senior leaders. Children do not lead worship independently but they often assist the adult leaders. Evaluation of worship is done by senior leaders. The views of children and adults are not part of the feedback that informs future worship plans. School worship involving the children takes place in the local parish church at major festivals. These festive services are very well attended by parents and families of all faiths.

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

The Christian distinctiveness of St Andrew's school and its Christian values are the motivating forces for its emphasis on nurture and care. They drive forward the elimination of barriers to learning and stimulate the children to aspire to their full potential. The exceptional headteacher oversees a system of rigorous ongoing review and evaluation. This enables necessary actions to be taken to maintain the high standards that drive pupil progress and raise achievement for all children. The governing board takes its responsibilities for monitoring and evaluation of school effectiveness very seriously. However, this scrutiny does not include formal evaluation of the Christian distinctiveness of St Andrew's as a Church of England school. Since the last inspection, the school has taken the necessary steps to act on areas for development. There are mutually positive links with the local parish church, where the congregation regularly pray for the work of the school, the staff and children. The vicar is well-known and respected as a regular visitor in school. Parents are very supportive of the school and feel the outcomes of the school's faith ethos have much to offer them. One Muslim family, new to the UK, experienced misgivings about sending their child to a Church of England school. Their concerns quickly vanished because, as one of the parents stated, 'This is a school that values and lives out its faith'. Parent Council meetings provide an open forum for parents and carers to take an active interest in school life and their children's education. Successful 'Families and Schools Together' (FAST) groups at the school enable parents to extend their children's learning in school through home support. FAST is also effective in removing social isolation in new families moving into the local community. The school ensures all its staff are involved in a rich programme of ongoing professional development and has good links with other local and church schools. Senior staff attend regular local diocesan meetings which ensure that the school remains clearly focused on its vibrant Christian ethos.

SIAMS report July 2016 St Andrew's Church of England VC Primary School, Eccles M30 0FL