



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

All Saints Church of England Primary School Voluntary Controlled

Magpie Hall Road,
Chatham
Kent
ME4 5JY

Diocese: Rochester

Local authority: Medway

Dates of inspection: 14 March 2014

Date of last inspection: 10 February 2009

School's unique reference number: 118639

Headteacher: Mrs Gillian Hill

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Patricia Martin (NS105)

School context

All Saints is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England primary school which is larger than average and is oversubscribed. It provides an outstanding Church school experience for pupils in a socially deprived area of Chatham. There is a high level of special educational needs in the school. The school has significant pupil mobility issues. A third of its pupils are from ethnic minority backgrounds. Most of these are from Black African Christian families, but other religions are also represented. Some pupils are taught in mixed age classes.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of All Saints Primary School, Chatham as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The school has a calm welcoming atmosphere set within a context of Christian values where all are treated equally and which enables pupils to feel happy and secure
- There is extensive pupil engagement and participation in Collective Worship which has a significant impact on the daily life of the school community
- The visionary, inspiring and passionate Christian leadership of the Headteacher is strongly supported by staff and the governing body
- Following Christ's teaching of 'going the extra mile' results in enriched experiences for all pupils

Areas to improve

- The involvement of pupils in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- The development of effective strategies for evaluating worship which impact upon the experience of the school community
- Rigorous monitoring of Religious Education to ensure the highest standards in teaching and learning

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

The school's Christian ethos is very strong and permeates every aspect of the school's life. This is the result of the outstanding commitment of the school to the development of each and every child. Progress of pupils is carefully monitored and the data collected is used effectively to raise standards for individual pupils, groups of pupils and across the school in general. Set within a framework of Christian values, children are nurtured and cared for in a calm and secure environment. Attendance is above average because pupils enjoy being at school and effective strategies are in place to support consistent attendance. Relationships in the school are based on respect, one of the school's Christian values, which the pupils confidently articulate. Pupils understand how the behaviour policy helps them to improve the ways in which they treat others. They clearly link the school badge to the school's values and explain why there is a cross on their school badge. "We're related to a church", was the explanation of one pupil. Pupils describe how they raise money for charities and explain their reason for doing this, saying, "Jesus helps us, and we can help other people who don't have as much as we do." The school demonstrates how a diverse community can work together for the good of all. A revised scheme of work has been introduced in Religious Education with the aim of raising standards in the subject. (This was identified as an area for development in the last inspection.) Although monitoring of teaching and learning is taking place, it is too early to be able to confidently assess its impact.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Pupils are united in the opinion that they value worship. They recognise that worship is a special time and they assemble quietly with a sense of anticipation. This is testament to the good planning and delivery of Collective Worship. Through a variety of experiences, pupils are engaged in worship and talk confidently about the cycle of the Church's year. They talk animatedly about Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Prayer during worship and at other times during the day, such as lunchtimes, supports the children's spiritual development. This was identified by two new pupils who have been welcomed into All Saints from other schools and both identify a more spiritual feel about their new school. They welcome the religious atmosphere that they felt from the moment they arrived in their classes. Good use is made of the prayer tree and prayer boxes in the classroom giving pupils the freedom to express themselves in their own way. Pupils talk of how the Bible teaches them to do their best to treat each other well. They are developing an understanding of the Christian belief of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit through the use of the Rochester-Canterbury worship plans. Governors feel that they have greater involvement in worship than in the past. They are particularly involved in finding out the views of children through the use of questionnaires. They speak of very strong links between the Church and the school. Worship is not yet outstanding because pupils need to take a greater part in planning, leading and monitoring worship. Monitoring and evaluation is not sufficiently rigorous and does not impact upon experiences offered to pupils.

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

School leaders articulate a visionary and inspiring Christian ethos for the school which impacts

upon all aspects of school life. The leadership team is passionate about the Christian ethos of the school. It is lived and breathed by the school community. Consequently, outstanding relationships are modelled by staff and pupils. Leaders' commitment to pupils is demonstrated through support strategies which enable pupils to succeed and this, together with an effective enrichment programme, enables pupils to make good progress. It forms the basis of the policies and practice of the school. For example, overnight trips are held for pupils across the school providing additional experiences to those offered by the academic curriculum. Parents are regularly consulted about the ethos of the school and the returned questionnaires demonstrate a high degree of satisfaction with the school. The school meets the statutory requirements for Collective Worship and Religious Education. Religious Education is treated as a core subject with the subject being led by a member of the senior leadership team. This effectively demonstrates its importance in the school. Other members of the School leadership team have aspects of Church school distinctiveness linked to their appraisal targets ensuring that these aspects of school life take high priority. Links with the Diocese are strong, with the school taking an active part in Diocesan activities and taking advantage of Diocesan training. The local church and school work closely together to support the local community. This contributes positively to community cohesion.

SIAMS report March 2014 All Saints Primary School (VC), Chatham ME4 5JY