



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Saughall All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Church Road, Saughall, Chester

CHI 6EP

Previous SIAS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Satisfactory

Diocese: Chester

Local authority: Cheshire West and Chester

Dates of inspection: 26 May 2016

Date of last inspection: April 2011

School's unique reference number: 135736

Headteacher: Donna Prenton

Inspector's name and number: Christine J Buckley 525

School context

Saughall All Saints Primary is a popular school serving the village of Saughall and surrounding area. It has been purpose-built in the last decade and has extensive grounds. Most of the children are White British and the school has a very low rate of pupil deprivation. A recent Ofsted inspection judged the school as requiring improvement. The local church has had an interregnum since the last inspection. Although there is now a new incumbent in place he has been out of action due to illness.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Saughall All Saints as a Church of England school are satisfactory

- Religious Education (RE) makes a positive contribution to the children's understanding of Christianity and other religions and supports their spiritual and moral development.
- Relationships within the school are very positive and children are caring and compassionate.

Areas to improve

- Set up effective systems for regular self-evaluation as a church school with all stakeholders so that future development of its Christian distinctiveness is in line with National Society expectations.
- Revise the planning of collective worship (CW) so that Biblical material is used more frequently and the children can relate this to Christian values.
- Include elements of Anglican practice in CW to ensure the children gain an understanding of these Christian traditions.
- Develop evaluation of CW so that all stakeholders are involved and the outcomes inform future planning.

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

Saughall All Saints School is addressing issues raised with Ofsted to ensure that all children can achieve their best. The progress of all children is tracked three times a year and intervention support is provided where necessary. Children and staff have mutually positive relationships, demonstrating that Christian values are encouraged. The link between these values and Christian teaching however is not fully appreciated. Children are caring and compassionate and raise money for local and global causes because they understand that all people should be valued. Since the last inspection, links with the local church and community have been strengthened. This was an area of development from the last inspection. Children feel part of the village as they sing at local events and the school hosted celebrations of the World War I centenary. There are positive relationships with the church through the curate's regular meetings with the children at school lunchtime. The environment supports the Christian ethos with displays of bible stories, written work and Christian symbols. Every classroom has an area for reflection though these are not yet interactive. RE is planned and taught well so that it is enjoyed by the children. It supports their developing understanding of the Christian faith and their knowledge of other world religions. This leads to respect for those of no faith or other faiths. As one child said 'Knowing why they do what they do helps me to understand them better and respect them'. The children have some understanding of Christianity as a world faith and can speak of some differences and similarities. Children take pride in their RE books and there is some evidence of marking that challenges them to think more deeply. Parents say that some of their children talk about Bible stories at home which enables them to have conversations about spiritual matters. A Bible story club attended by a group of Key Stage 2 children supports faith development as the children study verses from the Bible and pray together.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

The collective worship leader is very enthusiastic and diligently plans for CW throughout the year. Each week she leads worship with songs that the children enjoy. Younger children sing the songs at home so demonstrating the positive influence of praise. Varying patterns of worship take place on different days of the week but the essential elements of worship are not always included. The children do not gain an understanding of Anglican tradition in their school worship. Children in each year group have an opportunity to help to plan and lead worship. This was an area of development from the last inspection. However, the worship theme is not always directly related to Biblical teaching or Christian values. Limited participation by children in worship includes action songs and their uniting with Amen in response to a prayer. Children's experiences of prayer in school are not extensive. They include the use of the school prayer plus some opportunities to write their own prayers for worship. They sing a version of the Lord's prayer during the singing assembly and have used it at church. A lovely prayer tree in the entrance hall provides children with an infrequently used opportunity to add their own prayers. Parents comment on the children's good understanding of the major Christian festivals that are celebrated by the school. Evaluation of worship was an area for development from the last inspection. Whilst some evaluation is carried out by the CW leader, this is limited and does not greatly influence worship planning.

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

The mission statement states that the school's aim of 'learning and growing together' is based on Christian values. This is made evident on the school's website and for parents at the new pupil intake meeting. The environment around the school helps to support this statement with several displays noting the values and Christian stories. The headteacher and leadership team are committed to developing the best possible education for all the children. The RE and CW leader is able to access training for her role from the diocese. As a part time member of staff overseeing worship throughout the week is not possible. The curate and foundation governors are very keen to offer support but are unaware of the expectations for a church school. Similarly not all staff are clear about the criteria used for the inspection of a church school. There is no clear shared understanding of the impact of Christian distinctiveness on the life and work of the school. This is because the assessment systems in place do not evaluate this essential requirement. Links with the local church have been hampered by the unavailability of the vicar. However, the school has been able to hold services in church for major Christian festivals. With the help of the curate the children use the church as a resource for RE. The parents view the church and school as one and are happy to attend functions at the church when their children are involved. 'Messy church' is popular with children from the school. Parents are very supportive of the school and are thankful for the Christian teaching the children receive.