

Scotforth St Paul's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Scotforth Road
Lancaster
LA11 4SE

Diocese: Blackburn

Local authority: Lancashire
Dates of inspection: 13th June 2011
Date of last inspection: 7th December 2007
School's unique reference number: 119533
Headteacher: Mrs Alison Aylott
Inspector's name and number: Mr Paul Adnitt 590

School context

St Paul's C of E Primary School is a one form entry Church of England voluntary aided school situated in the South of Lancaster. Most children attending come from the Scotforth and Greaves/Hala area. The school roll is currently 217 organised into 7 classes. The number of children on the SEN register with Statements of Special Educational Needs is above the national average. The intake is mainly white British.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Scotforth St Paul's as a Church of England school are outstanding

Scotforth St Paul's is an outstanding church school. The excellent leadership and management promote strong Christian values and spiritual awareness. These Christian values strongly underpin all that the school does which has a very positive effect upon the personal development of all pupils.

Established strengths

- The headteacher provides outstanding Christian leadership and is supported well by the school governors and staff
- Relationships throughout the school are exceptional
- The distinctiveness of the school as a Church school, demonstrated by the welcoming Christian ethos with happy children within a very caring Christian community

Focus for development

- Look at ways of further involving the parents in evaluating the school's progress
- Evaluate resources for acts of worship to ensure that they are as up to date as possible, using the potential of Information Technology innovations.

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

The school provides an excellent and supportive Christian environment which contributes very well to pupils' spiritual and moral development. The school's mission statement is clear to all and informs all policies and procedures in school. Pupils clearly understand how the school's Christian ethos is vital to the life of the school and to all pupils. This helps contribute to positive relationships and encourages the high standards of behaviour and academic work. Pupils develop an excellent sense of responsibility and service. Pupils express great pride in their school and often take initiatives to raise money for others. The school's behaviour and discipline policy is based on Christian principles of responsibility and forgiveness and this reinforces the school's Christian ethos. Pupils feel valued and are involved in decision making processes, including worship. All stakeholders take an effective part in the Christian vision for the school. School governors fully support the school's ethos and are very knowledgeable about the school. The school is clearly a warm and welcoming place where children and staff are valued within a Christian context. Parents appreciate the Christian nature of the school. One parent stated, "The education side is good but my child is also

encouraged to express his faith freely in school, and that is important.”

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is a valuable experience for all pupils and it has a very positive impact on the spiritual development of the pupils. It provides excellent opportunities for spiritual reflection and for celebrating pupils' achievements. Worship is given a high priority amongst staff and governors. There is a weekly input from St Paul's clergy and regular visits from other visiting clergy including other denominations. Pupils are engaged in and value worship at school. One pupil, a member of the school council stated, "Worship is very important, it's about joining God's family and remembering how important Jesus is to us". Many of the pupils understand and can verbalize the personal value of worship. They express their opinions on worship and offer feedback about what does and does not work for them. Pupils are familiar with changes and the main festivals in the church year. They are aware of some of the Christian symbols and can explain their relevance. Pupils sing hymns well and with enthusiasm. They understand that prayer is talking and listening to God and are happy to make up their own prayers. Worship is well planned and evaluated using a range of very good resources. School should now consider looking at improving audio visual resources in the hall to further enhance the quality of worship.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Religious education is an important aspect of the provision made by this church school and it is having a positive impact on the pupils. Pupils develop a wonderful understanding of the Christian faith. Evidence from talking to children, looking at their books, looking at teachers' planning and observing lessons shows that pupils make outstanding progress in religious education. Pupils participate and respond with enthusiasm. The lessons seen were of outstanding quality. Pupils were challenged and were given the opportunity to reflect on what they were learning. Good opportunities were provided for children to share their ideas and thoughts. Pupils openly and freely talked about their Christian beliefs and they have a respect for other religions. The contributions made by pupils in RE work demonstrates the very positive contribution of RE to their spiritual and moral development. The RE schemes of work are of high quality. Assessment procedures are in place and regularly and thoroughly monitored. Religious education is very well resourced. Learners have an excellent understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican tradition. Discussions held with children showed a good understanding of faith and a willingness to talk about their faith and the impact of prayer. One pupil commented, "RE shows you how to follow Jesus and why he died for us ... and what we can do too".

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

Leadership and management are both of excellent quality and strongly promote the school's Christian character and ethos. Both parents and children speak highly of the school. The headteacher is a hard working and dedicated Christian leader who takes all possible opportunities to promote St Paul's as a church school. The head has a clear Christian vision for the school. The Christian ethos of the school is the starting point in helping the leaders and managers formulate this clear vision for the school. The National Society "Church Schools Toolkit" has been used effectively to clarify the present position of St Paul's as a church school. The Governors are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities and are highly supportive of the school's leadership and Christian vision. Parents speak very highly of the effectiveness of the head as school leader. Virtually all parents, pupils and other stakeholders speak positively of the way in which the school seeks and responds to their views. The school should now look at ways of further involving parents in evaluating the school's progress. The school is inclusive. There are very strong and committed links between school and church and community.