

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Blackpool St John's CE Primary School

Church Street
Blackpool

FY1 3NX

Diocese: Blackburn

Local authority: Blackpool

Dates of inspection: Wednesday 11th July 2012

Date of last inspection: 12th December 2008

School's unique reference number: 119595

Headteacher: Mrs S. J Hall

Inspector's name and number: Mr Stephen Paul Adnitt 590

School context

St John's Primary school is located close to Blackpool town centre in a highly built up area, surrounded by shops, hotels, bars and offices. The school has recently taken possession of a new school building. The number on roll is 242 and the school is a popular choice with parents. Currently there are 131 applications for 30 places in September 2012. Although located in the Talbot ward of Blackpool the school draws pupils from all areas of town and beyond. The school deprivation analysis shows that a large proportion of the school population to be significantly deprived. Currently 43% of pupils receive free school meals and 22.8% of pupils are identified as having special needs.

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

St John's is a school with a very strong and distinctive Christian ethos. The leadership of the school, led by the headteacher, is enthusiastic and committed. There is excellent support from the very effective governing body. Links with the church are close and there is a resolute and determined wish to further improve these important and beneficial links. The whole school community works extremely well together as evidenced by the effective and successful way the school has recently moved into its new building from its temporary accommodation.

Established strengths

- The high quality of worship which makes a significant contribution to the spiritual development of all pupils
- The quality of the Christian ethos and the extremely supportive environment that the school generates and promotes
- The quality of all relationships in the school which are built on Christian values and principles
- The strong Christian leadership of the school led by the head and ably supported by all staff, governors and church leaders.

Focus for development

- To further develop an understanding of other faiths in the local community
- To further develop assessment of religious education and moderation of levels of attainment
- To revisit the school vision with all stakeholders

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

The school provides an extremely supportive environment which contributes greatly to the pupils' spiritual and moral development. The Christian ethos of the school plays a significant

part in the development of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of all pupils. The school mission statement clearly reflects Christian principles. Throughout the school there is an explicit framework of Christian values which pervades the school ethos and curriculum. Relationships between staff and children, amongst pupils and between staff clearly demonstrate these Christian values. In an area of extreme deprivation all the children are supported through the school's strong Christian philosophy. All staff support the Christian foundation. The school develops a sense of social responsibility within the children. This leads to exemplary behaviour on the part of all pupils. St John's children are responsible pupils both in and outside school. Children are involved in supporting many charities annually. The building inside and out clearly demonstrates the school's strong faith position. Within the new school building there are effective and often interactive displays, which demonstrate the importance of worship and religious education to the life of the school. These displays also encourage reflection and contribute positively to the pupils' moral and spiritual development.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is a valuable experience for all pupils which has an extremely positive impact on the spiritual development of all pupils. Collective worship includes a daily act of worship and regular services in St John's church. These take place at the start of the day and are in the school hall or the arts area for Key Stage 1. A worshipful atmosphere is created to make children aware that they are entering a "special place." Records of worship are kept by the head. The worship leader carries out informal evaluations at the end of each act of worship. The head liaises with the senior staff and clergy to co-ordinate and plan worship. Pupils feel positive about joining in with worship both in school and at church. They demonstrate a growing confidence in planning and leading their own worship & actively take part in worship over the year, with each class leading worship for parents. Pupils are encouraged to formally evaluate how they feel about collective worship. Pupils are reflective and have a good spiritual awareness. Staff and pupils take part in worship together on three days each week and a variety of people lead worship so there is diversity in approach that caters for different learners. Pupils' understanding of Christian traditions and practice is well developed through clear planning of collective worship. Pupils are further developing their understanding of other faiths, which is an area for development. School works very closely with St John's church. Collective worship is included in the school development plan annually. All stakeholders are aware of the importance of collective worship to the life of St John's school.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Religious education is taught well, and it plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of the school. The school follows the diocesan scheme. Approximately 80% of RE teaching time is devoted to Christianity; the other 20% is divided between Judaism and Islam. RE accounts for about 5% of the curriculum time across a school year. Class teachers keep their own records and are responsible for reporting to parents. Assessment is carried out in line with the school's agreed assessment, recording and reporting policy. The RE co-ordinator has put together a portfolio of evidence to help improve Assessment for learning. Teaching is good with some outstanding features. In RE pupils demonstrate a good understanding of Christianity and other faiths. They are reflective thinkers and demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding. Pupils are positive about RE and say they enjoy the variety of different teaching approaches. Pupils are challenged to think about their faith and how others have developed their faith.

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

The headteacher leads by example and her personal Christian values permeate the life of the school. The ethos is calm, happy and purposeful. She has a strong Christian vision for the school and she is well supported in this by the governing body. There are effective monitoring and evaluation processes in place for its self evaluation as a church school, which is linked well to school improvement planning. An area of the school Improvement Plan is related to the Christian character of the school and the links with St John's church. The headteacher is well supported by the governing body who are committed to working to improve the school.

They are rightly proud of their school. Virtually all parents, pupils and other members of the school community speak positively of the way in which the school seeks and values their views. Parents' views are sought on a regular basis and pupils feel comfortable in expressing their opinions and suggestions. Links between school and St John's Church are strong and growing stronger and the vicar is a regular visitor to school. Pupils say they value his visits. The leadership of the school is strong. All stakeholders are involved in looking at the whole school vision. The school is a vibrant school that holds core Christian values at the heart of all it does. The school plays an active part in the local community. The school council is effective and functions well. Parents support the school and its Christian ethos. The church school evaluation is effective and thorough.

SIAS report July 2012 Blackpool St John's CE Primary School, Blackpool. FY1 3NX