



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

All Saints Upton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hough Green Road
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 4PG

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection: Good

Diocese: Liverpool

Local authority: Halton

Date of inspection: 4 February 2016

Date of last inspection: September 2010

School's unique reference number: 131217

Headteacher: Chris McConnell

Inspector's name and number: Robert Haigh NS660

School context

All Saints is a smaller than average-sized primary school. The vast majority of pupils are of White British heritage. The proportion of pupils with disabilities and special educational needs is above average, as is the proportion eligible for the pupil premium. Since the last inspection the school has undergone a complete rebuild. A children's centre and day care facility share its site. The school holds the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award. The headteacher is also a consultant within the partnership of local schools.

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

- The dedicated and energetic Christian leadership of the headteacher ensures that the school's ethos and vibrant family atmosphere contribute strongly to children's spiritual development, welfare and achievement.
- Very good pastoral care reflects the Christian values of love, friendship and forgiveness. As a result, children's behaviour, relationships and attitudes to learning are good.
- Links with the parish nourish children's understanding and experience of Christianity.

Areas to improve

- Ensure the core values become deeply embedded so all children understand them and can confidently explain their distinctively Christian basis, characteristics and impact on daily life and learning.
- Develop the role and responsibilities of children in planning, participating in and evaluating worship to enhance their understanding and leadership skills.

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

A strong commitment to its Christian ethos inspires this happy, dynamic and improving school.

Leaders say All Saints offers children a way of life through faith in action. Children express the importance of the school's core values. Not all, however, are able to speak confidently about their distinctively Christian inspiration. The school's Christian character shows in the attitudes and actions of all. Children explain that 'We are like a caring family trying to pass on the love and teaching of Jesus'. They are listened to and able to share concerns with staff knowing that these will be addressed sensitively. Such harmonious relationships are a key to the school's success. A belief in the God-given importance of each child inspires staff to ensure all children achieve their goals. They see themselves as Christian role models. Children respond with good behaviour, impeccable politeness and much care for each other. They are known well, feel safe and are curious and enthusiastic learners. Their attendance has improved to reach the national average, reflecting the positive impact of the family outreach work. Staff diligently support those with special needs so that they make very good progress. Children for whom the school receives extra funding are quickly catching up with others. Attainment and progress in reading, writing and mathematics were near or above the national average in 2015. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) is promoted strongly, due to the focused Christian perspective given to planning across the curriculum. Christian symbols and thought-provoking displays emphasise the school's distinctiveness and enhance children's spiritual awareness. Ecumenical links with a partner Roman Catholic primary school and the shared church broaden children's faith perspective. The restorative practices used to resolve issues foster moral responsibility and a strong commitment to knowing right from wrong. Children show concern for global issues and support international charities. They are also active in local community projects including Halton cancer care and the Widnes food bank. Some are able to explain this as an expression of Christian compassion and generosity towards those in need. Children are beginning to show an awareness of Christianity as a global faith through links with church schools abroad via UNICEF. Well-taught Religious education (RE) makes a strong contribution to the school's Christian character. RE enables the children to make comparisons between other faiths and their own. Not only does this increase their knowledge of Christian beliefs and values, but also enables them to discover other religions and value social and cultural diversity.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Great importance is attached to collective worship. It is inclusive, reflective and joyful. Planning incorporates themes based on the Bible, Christian values, the church calendar and social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL). As a result worship supports children's spiritual and moral development, enabling them to discover the relevance of faith and express its meaning in their lives. Consequently, they demonstrate a strong moral conscience and know the difference between right and wrong. Children also speak with spiritual maturity about the inspiration and learning they draw from worship. A Year 5 child stated 'We come together as a family and feel God's warmth in our worship'. Worship extends beyond daily occasions in class and larger school gatherings. Children attend celebrations of Christian festivals at the parish church. This deepens their knowledge of Anglican worship and enables them to feel part of the wider worshipping community. Children know the Lord's Prayer. They have a developing understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit through the prominent display and use of a Bible, cross and candle. The school is extending the use of Anglican responses in worship. Children say that prayer and reflection increase their sense of God's presence. They also help them think about the needs of others as well as their own concerns. The children value the classroom and garden reflection areas where they can pray and write prayers for use in worship. A group of children is an enthusiastic part of the school worship team, which also includes staff. In this capacity the children occasionally plan and lead worship in church and class and create interactive displays. They say this enhances their understanding of worship and their confidence in leadership. The worship co-ordinator is aware of the importance of extending such opportunities. The school has some systems in place to evaluate worship, although they do not at present involve all members of the school community on a systematic basis.

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

The dynamic and visionary Christian leadership of the headteacher, strongly supported by staff and governors, inspires everyone to provide the very best for the children. The positive influence of leadership and management is also seen in the creation of a strong culture of learning. This enables children to be ambitious learners whose achievement is improving. RE and collective worship are well led with dedication and a vision for the contribution they make to children's spiritual growth. Both have a high profile and meet statutory requirements. The school listens to and acts upon the views of children, for example in developing worship and the behaviour policy. They contribute enthusiastically through the school council, worship team and their other committees. This is a school which knows itself increasingly well. Self-evaluation is becoming more robust and reflective. It informs development planning. This in turn is effective in raising standards and enhancing the ethos in the drive for improvement and Christian distinctiveness. The school's Christian values are explicitly referred to in key policies. Church school development priorities are included in the school improvement plan. Issues from the previous inspection have been addressed. The school values diocesan support which improves the expertise of leaders and teachers in developing the Christian ethos. The governors are proud of the school, supportive and increasingly confident to challenge leaders. They are determined to ensure that the school's Christian character is sustained. This is reflected in the provision made for the training of staff and the development of future leaders. The school is becoming a beacon of Christian love and witness in the community. It has active links with partner schools, hosts family events and workshops for parents and supports activities in the community centre. Links with the parish church enhance the school's Christian identity and extend the church's connections with families. Parents are very supportive of what the school is achieving. They are proud that it 'does the very best for all the children' in enabling them to become happy and motivated learners who care for others.

SIAMS report February 2016 All Saints Upton C of E Primary School Widnes Cheshire WA8 4PG