



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Holy Trinity Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Delph New Road Dobcross Saddleworth Oldham OL3 5BP
Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese	Manchester
Previous SIAMS inspection grade:	Outstanding
Local authority	Oldham
Date of inspection	3 October 2016
Date of last inspection	October 2011
School's unique reference number	105691
Headteacher	Liz Travis
Inspector's name and number	Robert Boulter 721

School context

Holy Trinity is a semi-rural school. Almost all pupils are White British with English as their first language. The school has a reducing budget. This means staff redundancies and an intensive review of spending. The school has a strong PTA which allows the school to purchase beyond the basics. Since the last inspection there has been a change of deputy headteacher and four new teachers. The school welcomes pupils with disabilities, a strength of the school recognized by the local educational authority.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Holy Trinity as a Church of England school are outstanding

- High expectations are fostered through Christian values of hope, persistence and resilience. Consequently, individual talents are nurtured and learning and behaviour are exemplary.
- The impact of collective worship is demonstrated through children's awareness of their responsibility for themselves and for one another based on Christian values.
- The deeply embedded Christian ethos of the school results in outstanding care for all children.

Areas to improve

- To deepen children's awareness, understanding and respect for Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith and for diversity and difference in local and wider faith communities.
- To ensure monitoring and evaluation of collective worship includes all groups and provides insight into its influence on the life of the school community
- To provide opportunity for the religious education co-ordinator to share good practice, enabling the professional development of all members of staff.

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

Christian values of kindness, empathy and respect underpin the Christian ethos of the school. These are taught explicitly through religious education (RE) and implicitly through all areas of the curriculum. As a result pupils are confident, articulate, well behaved and dressed smartly. They speak proudly of their school. They exhibit excellent manners which express themselves in caring for one another. Children have a love of learning, encouraged through pupil centred enquiry skills. This fosters independent thinking. As a result of the Christian values of hope, persistence and resilience, pupils set personal targets with the teacher, taking ownership of their progress. Through this partnership for learning, children are fully aware of the school's high expectations placed upon them. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural dimension undergirds all provision, making for well rounded individuals. This includes much praise from parents for after school clubs of a wide provision. Attainment and progress are excellent for all learners, including vulnerable children. This is built from the exceptional provision of tracking, monitoring and appropriate provision. The main school corridor exemplifies excellence through artistic displays from whole class projects. These are breath taking, establishing a learning environment that stimulates the desire to achieve the best one can. RE is an exciting area in development, with much evidence of pupil engagement, for example, its recent lead in diversity week. Children respond, at appropriate levels, to the study of difference and similarity in beliefs, practices and values of world religions, including Christianity. Children speak of their enjoyment of this approach and the value of respect that it teaches them.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Children enjoy collective worship. They speak of it as a time of reflection, of learning about others. At one level, learning about what individuals and classes do in school, and being proud of what other pupils achieve. At a broader level, learning about issues in the world through Bible stories. Children speak with understanding of these stories and the challenge they present to them. The contribution of collective worship is demonstrated in its enrichment of the Christian ethos of the school. Children are given a wide range of stimuli to respond to appropriate to their age. Its impact is evidenced through very positive teacher pupil relationships that shape the school day. Family and good effort collective worship is standing room only, parents highlighting the impact of nurturing and affirming the efforts of children. Singing is exemplary and includes songs in which pupils learn of God, of Jesus and Christian values. Worship themes include learning about faith diversity in the local area. The school has positive relationships with local schools which are ethnically and religiously different. These links and a theme week focussing on diversity develop children's understanding of similarity and difference in faith communities locally and in the wider world. Children's understanding of Christianity as a multicultural world faith is not yet fully developed. Collective worship is shaped by the Anglican calendar, with children experiencing worship in the parish church at key Christian festivals. Children are involved in planning class collective worship, writing their own prayers. The vicar and the senior leaders plan, monitor, evaluate and lead collective worship. Pupil voice is well established at Holy Trinity. Year 5 offer pupil critique of collective worship, evaluation that is taken seriously and implemented. The vicar, fundamental to the process of effective provision, highlighted the importance of the Year 5 contribution. Arising out of collective worship is the introduction of reflective areas in each classroom, together with the Lord's Prayer. However monitoring and evaluation does not as yet include all groups, including parents, pupils and governors, so that the impact of collective worship is clearly understood.

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

'In Christ we, though many, form one body' is the text by St Paul displayed in the entrance to the school. The emphasis on one body is the core principle that makes this school, as a church school, exceptional. People strive hard for each other, supporting one another and working together as a team to provide the very best for children.

This Christian vision is driven by the headteacher. It teaches pupils to be lifelong learners and to achieve education of the highest possible quality. The impact of these values is demonstrated through confident children who are able to think critically. It is also shown in their care of one another. The headteacher's vision impacts upon parental support and governor performance. The governors are insightful. They know their responsibilities, take part in appropriate training and go the extra mile for the well being of the school. Their contribution is both valuable and valued. They are proud of the school's academic achievement for all its pupils, including those children with special educational needs and disabilities. They are equally proud of attitudes and values that children learn, shaped by Christian principles. The school development plan and the head teacher's report to governors highlight the significance of RE in the school. The RE co-ordinator is very professional. She takes advantage of local and national training. The professional development of other staff is a key aspect of development plans for RE. These plans are in place and are being delivered. The school is preparing to apply for the RE quality mark (REQM). The vicar supports the development of religious education, contributing significantly to topics such as grave talk and dementia. The school communicates extensively, for example, through its newsletter, much appreciated by parents. It has well established links with local schools and churches, including a partnership school and the Diocese of Manchester.

SIAMS report October 2016. Holy Trinity CE VC Primary, Dobcross, Saddleworth, Oldham. OL3 5BP