

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St George's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	
Concord Place, Salford, M6 6SU	
Current SIAS inspection grade	Good
Diocese	Manchester
Previous SIAS inspection grade	Good
Local authority	Salford
Date of inspection	26 th January 2017
Date of last inspection	20 th March 2012
Type of school and unique reference number	VC Primary. URN: 105932
Executive Headteacher	Jane Tyers
Inspector's name and number	Stephen Burrow 622

School context

St George's CE Primary is a smaller than average sized primary school. The proportion of disadvantaged pupils supported by pupil premium funding is well above the national average. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs or disability is above average, as is the proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language. The number of pupils moving in and out of the school other than the start of early years and at the end of year 6 is well above average. The headteacher is the executive headteacher of St George's and St Paul's CE Primary schools in Salford.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St George's CE Primary School as a Church of England school are good

- The high levels of care, nurture and guidance, where everyone is valued as an individual, demonstrate the distinctive Christian ethos of the school in action. All pupils are enabled to grow academically, spiritually and socially in a stimulating school environment.
- The strong, purposeful Christian leadership of the executive headteacher, supported by a committed senior leadership team and staff, ensures that pupils maximise their personal and academic achievement.
- Attitudes and behaviour of pupils are firmly based on their understanding of Christian values. This leads to excellent relationships which are supported by strong links with the vicar, curate and church.
- A committed governing body plays a full and active part in supporting staff to develop the school's Christian life. Together, they ensure that pupils' spiritual development and well-being are a priority, alongside academic achievement.

Areas to improve

- Establish ways for pupils to be more involved in the planning of worship, so that their ideas and thoughts can be shared and discussed in order to enrich the experience of worship.
- Refine the evaluation of collective worship to include all who deliver worship, especially the pupils, so that this informs future planning and leads to on-going improvement.
- Engage pupils with the Christian idea of God as the Trinity so they can talk about this belief with a degree of understanding.

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

The school's strong Christian ethos enables and encourages the secure partnership that exists between pupils, staff, parents, the church and the wider community. The school's nurturing ethos and Christian care that exist within and between all members of the school family are exceptional and result in excellent relationships across the school. Pupils are polite and courteous. They treat adults and each other with respect and care, which results in good behaviour and positive attitudes to learning. This impacts on pupils' achievement, which is broadly in line with national expectations at the end of Key Stage 2. Worship and religious education (RE) support the Christian character of the school and the pupils' understanding of Christianity around the world and of other world faiths. Attractive and stimulating displays with prominent Christian symbols, create an environment which prompts pupils to reflect on what matters to them. The distinctive Christian character is evident in all areas of school life and is central to its ethos and vision. The school's values are prominently displayed around school and are a focal point, providing both reflection and discussion opportunities. Each class has an RE reflection area, where pupils think and pray quietly. As a result, pupils' spirituality is developed well. Pupils are given the opportunity to discuss their feelings and beliefs and readily talk about how the school's Christian values impact on their lives and the lives of others. Pupils take their responsibilities seriously and are confident that their voice is heard. The school gives high regard to the development and potential of the whole child, rooted in the belief that each person is special in God's eyes. A significant factor in this is the supportive approach shown towards all families based upon a clear understanding of each pupil's unique needs. The children and families officer works very hard to intervene early and ensure that all concerns are dealt with quickly and effectively. Pupils show their understanding of the need to help others less fortunate than themselves through their Christian service in supporting charities such as MacMillan Cancer Care and Run for Life, which involves children and their parents. Pupils enjoy coming to school. They feel special, safe, well cared for and valued. This is reflected in their improving attendance. They are proud of their school and speak confidently about why it is special to them. One pupil said of school, 'It's perfect – the whole school is together – one big friend.'

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship with strong Christian foundations is central to the daily life of the school and drives forward its Christian values. Through the messages given in worship, the school promotes its explicit Christian vision and provides opportunities for pupils to encounter God. One child said, 'It gives us a chance to talk to God.' Worship is well planned and recorded, using themes based on Christian values, biblical teaching, the celebration of major Christian festivals and those of other world faiths. These contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual development. As a result, pupils enjoy and highly value their worship experiences, feeling part of the school and wider Christian family. Pupils benefit from a range of styles of worship led by the headteacher, staff and vicar on a regular basis. There are opportunities to worship in church and the vicar regularly leads worship in school, including a regular Eucharist service, thus strengthening links between the school, church and the community. One pupil commented, 'Worship is special because it taught me to believe in God.' Although pupils are involved in the delivery of worship, there is an untapped opportunity for them to become more involved with the planning. Prayer is a key feature of all acts of worship and pupils are familiar with a range of traditional prayers including the Lord's Prayer. They have a school prayer, prayers at lunchtime and home time, as well as having opportunities to write and share their own prayers. Through these opportunities for prayer throughout the day, along with special spaces around the school for prayer and reflection, pupils develop a clear understanding of the nature and purpose of prayer in their own lives. This is supported in each class by a reflection book in which pupils record their thoughts. Pupils' awareness of Christianity as a worldwide faith is well embedded, enabling them to understand and make clear links between beliefs and practices of other faiths. They have a good understanding of Bible stories which allows them to explain Jesus' place at the heart of the Christian faith. Their understanding of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, however, is not developed fully. Whilst there are effective procedures in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of worship, the school recognises the value of introducing a system to record and share pupil's views and reflections of worship. Pupils appreciate the atmosphere of worship, created by subdued lighting, prayer and reflection time, which heighten spiritual awareness. This is supported by the Bible, cross and candle on the worship table and the respectful way in which pupils enter and leave the room. Pupils enjoy their involvement in worship and gain much from singing and contributing actively through drama. They also take responsibility for music and slideshow presentations. The relevance and importance of worship and spiritual reflection is demonstrated by the fact that all staff participate along with the pupils, which supports pupils in developing their spiritual awareness.

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

The headteacher, through her strong faith, has provided clear leadership in promoting Christian values throughout the school. Her Christian vision for the school, where everyone is seen as special in God's eyes, is well supported by the senior leadership team and the governing body. Governors are clear about their role. They are involved in self-evaluation procedures and through frequent visits have regular involvement in the life of the school. Together with information about school performance they receive information on developments in RE and worship through reports from the headteacher and have a strong commitment to the school's Christian foundation. Strong nurturing relationships permeate the school with the core Christian values embedded throughout its life. One member of staff said, 'There is an aura in the school – A Presence.' School leaders ensure that the school's Christian values and ethos are at the forefront of all new initiatives. Leaders recognise the importance and value of worship and RE. As a consequence, they provide resources, training and support for the leaders of these areas that sustain their energy, enthusiasm and genuine drive to seek further improvement. Senior leaders have a clear understanding of what it means to lead a church school and carry out their roles effectively. There are strong links with the local parish church. All staff are inducted well into what is expected of them in relation to the Christian ethos of the school and promote the belief that everyone is special in God's eyes. Consequently, they have built strong trusting relationships with parents, who appreciate the way in which the school supports them and reaches out into the community. Pupils have recently been given the opportunity to name some of the streets in a new housing development, thus strengthening ties with the local neighbourhood. All staff and pupils are encouraged to contribute to decision making and their ideas are listened to and valued. Parents also feel that their opinions and views are important and that any problems are dealt with quickly and sensitively. They agree that the school's Christian ethos is a prominent aspect of school life, allowing their children to explore the meaning of faith and belief openly. One parent said, 'It's very good that this school encourages the children to see that God is alive.' Another added, 'Church is part and parcel of school life.'

SIAMS report January 2017 St George's CE Primary School, Concord Place, Salford, M6 6SU