



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St James Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hindley Road
Daisy Hill
Bolton
BL5 2JU

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Manchester

Local authority: Bolton

Dates of inspection: 7 July 2016

Date of last inspection: July 2011

School's unique reference number: 105209

Headteacher: Catherine Watkin

Inspector's name and number: Robert Boulter 721

School context

St James is a larger than average-sized primary school with 383 pupils on roll. The contextual profile of the school shows that when children start school they enter typically below national average. The proportion of ethnic minority pupils is below average and most pupils are of White British heritage.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St James as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The outstanding variety and effectiveness of provision for the needs of every child, arising out of distinctive Christian principles, is highly effective.
- The highly effective working relationship of school and church, that makes possible collective worship of the highest Christian calibre, has a significant influence on children's well being and development as citizens.
- The clarity of vision and how to deliver it is shared by the senior leadership team and governors. The vision is based on Christian values and it has a positive effect on the work of the school.

Areas to improve

- Develop the dialogue already begun between school and home through the Christian values sheet, initiating strategies for involvement of governors and parents to develop its influence on the life of the school.

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

St James is an outstanding school, both in its explicit delivery of distinctive Christian values, and

in its breadth of provision to meet the needs of all learners. Shared Christian values are at the heart of all that the school does to develop children's successful learning. It influences every aspect of a child's development. A high proportion of learners make expected levels of progress above the national average across the whole age range. High quality intervention makes a positive contribution to the performance of vulnerable groups. Parents feel included in meeting the needs of all learners through the school's Christian values sheet. It generates discussion at home about the Christian values discussed in school. 'Bringing dads into the discussion', said one mum. Complementing academic provision is the extensive range of music and sports that St James promotes in its care of the whole child. These deliver exemplary levels of personal development and well being. Such a breadth of approach contributes to the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of children. The school's mission statement is 'working together to achieve excellence within a caring Christian community of faith, hope and love'. It is a humble statement, under-scoring the deeply spiritual nature of the school. Children have a keen sense of caring for vulnerable members of society, initiating charitable work. This includes Christian Aid, Autism Awareness and Race for Life. This sense of healthy, whole school spiritual well being runs through all relationships and decisions made by children and staff. It facilitates opportunities of high calibre that develop mature attitudes in personal spiritual growth in young people and adults. It develops positive attitudes to attendance and rare use of exclusion. Behaviour is exemplary and the behaviour policy is firmly rooted in the school's core Christian values. A Year 5 pupil was able to articulate clearly how choices made by Moses and pupils influence relationships and behaviour. Children understand that a new start is made possible through Christian forgiveness. Clear and powerful evidence shows children are both engaged and challenged by religious education (RE) and collective worship. Children understand the diversity within Christianity. Through their curiosity and respect, they are able to ask thoughtful questions about world religions.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship symbolizes the highly effective working partnership between school and church. This relationship is a deep well of reflective provision, putting into practice and developing the school mission statement. Children value opportunities to worship in the church. They understand that it offers a place of spiritual and emotional security. It holds the school family together in times of crisis, enabling children to grieve and give thanks. Collective worship is transformative, inspiring, engaging and relevant to children's thinking. It enables discussion, reflection and learning from one another. As a result, children become confident and articulate about matters of faith. Parents see worship in the church as relevant to the education of their children. Christian teaching through biblical stories is well developed. Singing plays a key role in worship. For example, the singing of the creed, Angolan style. Personal prayer and whole school prayer are important, enabling pupils to express their deepest thoughts through Christian teaching. This is evidenced in the St James prayer book. Children articulate the impact of collective worship through speaking of Christian values guiding their decision making. Kindness and helpfulness were most frequently mentioned and applied through concrete examples. A display of Christian values in the hall places Jesus at the centre of school life, together with an emphasis in class worship that develops understanding of the Trinity. Planning incorporates the church's calendar. Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship is thorough and leads to positive development. Children and parents contribute to the monitoring process. Children organize class worship. In church and in the classroom, the vicar provides opportunities for the children to experience and reflect upon a range of Anglican practice.

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

The headteacher and senior leadership team have a strong vision for the school based on Christian values and principles. The clear vision sets in train a clarity of provision that is tailored to provide for individual needs based on valuing the whole child. This is achieved through

rigorous assessment of children's work and needs, together with appraisal of the quality of teaching. Governors, under the experienced leadership of the chair of governors, continuously reflect on their role. They are knowledgeable and experienced and have a clear understanding of their strategic role to support and challenge the school. All members of the school community work as a team, putting into practice the school's mission statement. Collective worship and RE are included in every headteacher report to governors, demonstrating the important contribution made to developing Christian values. Parents are proud of the school's Christian values that nurture each individual. Communication between school and home is praised by parents. 'It is a family', said one parent, 'in which everyone is helped'. Local community groups praise the school's involvement in their well being. The school has strong links with the Diocese of Manchester and Manchester Cathedral. Year 6 attend the leavers service. The headteacher and chair of governors are active members of the Manchester Diocesan school cluster meetings. Pupils in Year 5 and 6 have explored links with Christians in Namibia, a link diocese with Manchester. Leaders regularly attend diocesan forums designed to train leaders in church schools. As a result, the school's distinctive Christian qualities are strengthened. This comes from the sharing of excellent practice between church schools. The RE co-ordinator provides extensive knowledge and understanding that facilitates excellent provision throughout the school.

SIAMS report July 2016 St. James C of E Primary School, Daisy Hill, Bolton. BL5 2JU