



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### St Anne's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Ashworth Road  
Edgeside  
Rossendale  
BB4 9JE

**Previous SIAS grade: Outstanding**

**Current inspection grade: Good**

**Diocese: Manchester**

Local authority: Lancashire

Dates of inspection: 30 June 2016

Date of last inspection: 5 April 2011

School's unique reference number: 119454

Headteacher: Charlotte Hartley

Inspector's name and number: Gillian Rhodes 657

#### School context

St Anne's is a smaller than average primary school. The school is a split site with Key Stage 2 on one site and the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 on the second site close by. The church of St Anne's stands on the corner between the two sites. The school is set in a mixed semi-rural and urban area of high social deprivation. The percentage of pupils for whom the school receives additional funding through the pupil premium is above average. The school population is mainly of white British heritage.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Anne's as a Church of England school are good

- Distinctively Christian values are deeply embedded in the life of the school and have significant impact on the lives of learners.
- The Christian character of the school has a strong, positive impact on behaviour, relationships and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children.
- Great value is placed on collective worship which is an inspiration to school life.
- Collective worship has a strong focus on Jesus Christ and children demonstrate good understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Strong, well-established links and partnerships are of mutual benefit to the school, parents and local church community.

#### Areas to improve

- Review the school's Christian character and values to ensure these include a clear focus on strategies which lead to academic success as well as personal development and wellbeing so that pupils are able to flourish in all areas.
- Ensure that the religious education (RE) curriculum enables learners to confidently make links between the practices and values of a range of other world faiths.
- Increase the pace and challenge of learning in RE through creative experiences and open-ended questions and ensure that pupils' work is always presented to best effect.

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

Christian values of forgiveness, friendship, love, peace and wisdom are deeply embedded in the life and heart of the school community. All members of the family of St Anne's understand and express the importance of these values. They understand their origins in the teachings of Jesus and the impact they have on the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. High quality experiences such as worship in school and in church, values related displays throughout the school and prayer areas in classrooms develop personal spirituality. The social and moral awareness of pupils is demonstrated by their mature discussions of events in the news and by their involvement in and organisation of charitable events. School performance data shows that pupils make progress from below average starting points as they move through the school but attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 is just in line with or below national age related expectations. School leaders are formulating action plans to ensure that the school's Christian character and values are applied to academic development in order for pupils to flourish as children of God. Behaviour and relationships throughout the school community are of the highest standard and are rooted in the Christian values of love and friendship. Children are aware that Christianity is a multi-cultural world faith but this is not yet a secure aspect of spiritual and cultural development. The values of friendship, peace and love are at the heart of the children's respect for diversity and difference in their own community and beyond. Study of the practices and values of a range of world faiths is not yet deep or detailed enough to allow pupils to make links and comparisons between their own beliefs and those of others. The links made between RE, collective worship and the school's Christian character and values are recognised and understood by children and adults at St Anne's. The profile of RE is very high in the school curriculum. RE has considerable impact on the spiritual development of pupils and they enjoy lessons.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Collective worship is central to the Christian ethos and character of St Anne's school. Learners and adults are engaged and inspired by worship which includes Biblical teaching, the seasons of the Church's year and Christian festivals. The close proximity of the church to this small school means that whole school worship is held in the church several times each week. This physical closeness is mirrored by the spiritual closeness of church and school. Worship themes are carefully planned by the headteacher, supported by the vicar who leads worship weekly. There is a strong focus on the life and teachings of Jesus and children demonstrate good understanding of the Trinity. On the worship table the Bible represents the word of God the Father, a cross symbolises Jesus the Son and a candle reminds children of God the Holy Spirit. Children in Year 2 demonstrated excellent understanding by choosing alternative symbols for the Trinity – hands clasped for God as Father, a lamb for the Son and a dove for the Spirit. Children relish taking part in worship and enjoy the wide variety of musical experiences included. The 'I Sing Pop' project welcomed parents, governors and local people as well as the school community and its spiritual impact has been lasting. The impact of worship is carried from the worship experience into the daily life of the school. At the end of an act of worship children were given book marks illustrating the story of the prodigal son to remind them to take forgiveness into their day. Prayer is central to worship at St Anne's. Children confidently contribute prayers they have written themselves. Prayer areas in classrooms provide quiet places for reflection. 'We use them when we want to think or talk to God,' the children explain. This understanding of the purpose of prayer enables them to contribute prayers in different situations. Worship takes place in a variety of settings including open air community worship, visits to Manchester cathedral and at a local Christian centre. This gives the children rich experiences of different Christian traditions. As a result of pupils' evaluation of worship, a worship group has been set up and is growing in confidence as children plan and lead worship. Governors are involved in evaluation of worship through a link governor. Many parents attend worship celebrating pupils' achievements and worship in church at special times such as Christmas and Harvest.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is good**

RE is central to the Christian character of St Anne's and impacts on the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of the children. Standards of attainment in RE are in line with national expectations and children make good progress. Class scrapbooks of photographs, children's notes and responses show the variety of creative learning experiences provided by teachers in RE. Art, music and drama are used to good effect. Children in Reception experienced a sense of place by walking barefoot over different surfaces. They responded well to questions such as 'How did it make you feel?' Year 6 children considered prayer for different purposes such as saying thank you or asking for help. Reflection is encouraged in responses in RE across all ages. However, the range of open-ended questions used is not yet wide enough to create challenge and excitement about RE and demonstrate higher level skills of enquiry, interpretation, and evaluation. Feedback to pupils sometimes prompts development and further thought. Presentation and organisation of pupils' work does not always show their knowledge and understanding to best effect. The RE curriculum places Christianity at the heart of teaching and learning and children demonstrate excellent knowledge. The study of other faiths is in place but children's knowledge does not yet enable them to confidently make links between the practices and values of a range of other world religions. Monitoring and evaluation of RE is effective in identifying strengths and areas for development. The headteacher has the role of RE subject leader and this gives RE high profile in the school's curriculum. Termly reports to the governing board ensure that they are well informed about standards and future developments in RE.

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

Leaders at St Anne's ensure the Christian character of the school is at the heart of all they do. The Christian values of the school are confidently expressed, demonstrated and modelled by leaders and all adults in school. The faith of members of staff shines through and this transmits to the pupils. A parent explained, 'Our children feel it's cool to have faith.' Senior leaders and governors have a good understanding of school performance and distinctiveness as a Church of England school. Monitoring and self-evaluation of ethos, worship and RE ensure that they are informed by Christian values and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children. As a result, children's conduct and relationships in school are excellent. Leaders have the vision and ambition to ensure that the Christian character of the school also impacts on the academic achievements of children. As RE co-ordinator, the headteacher has attended professional development training organised by the diocese. This has then been cascaded to other staff through in-house training. As a small school, many roles are held by the headteacher who carries them out with vision and dedication and a deep commitment to her Christian faith and the school community. Strategic planning for the development of other staff and governors as leaders in church schools is not yet in place. Parents emphasise the importance of links between home and school and value the welcome they receive in school at all times. Newsletters are timely and informative and the opportunities to share in worship and social activities are appreciated. The weekly celebration Golden Book worship is particularly popular and brings many parents into school. Family links are strengthened by the school involvement in toddler groups and children's activities held in the church. Governors are an effective link between the school, its families, the church and the local community. The vicar is a governor and the link for RE and worship. His regular and frequent presence in school to support staff, pupils and their families ensures links are of mutual benefit to all members of the school community. The headteacher and vicar are involved in the Edgeside Community Partnership. Links with The White Horse Project provide excellent transition and a sense of continuity for pupils when they move on to secondary school. Children have excellent understanding of local and wider community issues through their involvement in charitable organisations such as the Sophie Lancaster Project and the Bethany project in Tanzania. St Anne's school is a local school at the heart of its local community and with God at its heart.

SIAMS report June 2016 St Anne's C of E Primary School, Rossendale BB4 9JE