



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### **Burnley St James Lanehead C of E Primary School**

Briercliffe Road  
Burnley Lancashire  
BB10 2NH

#### **Diocese: Blackburn**

Local authority: Lancashire

Dates of inspection: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014

Date of last inspection: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008

School's unique reference number: 119487

Headteacher: Tracy Heys

Inspector's name and number: Paul Adnitt NS590

#### **School context**

St James' Lanehead Aided Primary is slightly larger than most primary schools. Most pupils are from a white British heritage and represent a broad social and economic mix. The proportion of children receiving free school meals is below average. The proportion of pupils at school action is below average, whilst those supported at school action plus or statement of special educational needs is slightly above the national average. There have recently been a number of changes to staffing, including the headteacher who took up her post from January 2013.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St James Lanehead as a Church of England school are good**

The school provides a good and supportive Christian environment which contributes well to pupils' spiritual and moral development. The quality of worship is improving and has a significant impact on pupils' personal and spiritual development. Pupils are happy and care for each other. The school has made significant progress since the appointment of the present headteacher and the leadership team of the school are determined to continue this positive trend

#### **Established strengths**

- The excellent behaviour of all pupils
- The excellent quality of relationships within the school family, together with the value placed on each individual
- The clear and strong Christian leadership and vision of the headteacher, which is well supported by the senior management team and governing body
- The quality of the school environment which enhances pupils' spiritual and moral development
- The effective way the school community, through the worship committee, is involved in planning, leading and evaluating worship

### **Areas to improve**

- Harness the enthusiasm the pupils have for being more involved in planning and leading worship
- Improve the consistency and quality of formal monitoring and assessment procedures in religious education
- Ensure that all parents are aware of what makes the school distinctly Christian and that they are involved in evaluating St James as a church school

### **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 strong partnership that exists between pupils, staff, parents, the church and the wider community. This is characterised by the pupils' excellent behaviour and the Christian care that exists within and between all members of the school family. Pupils get on well together and feel part of a functional Christian family. Strong emphasis is placed on moral development clearly based on Christian values. The school Christian values are clear, shared and understood by all involved in the life of the school and most pupils can talk about how the values impact on their lives and the lives of others. The school gives strong commitment to the development and potential of the whole child, as expressed in the mission statement and rooted in the belief that each person is special in God's eyes. Pupils have positive attitudes to learning and are happy, encouraged and supported in school. Pupils feel valued and special. They are proud of their school and speak confidently about why it is special to them. One pupil remarked, 'We like this school because the teachers care and everyone looks after each other'. Feedback from pupils and parents is overwhelmingly positive. Pupils show great respect for others and this is supported by the school in worship, religious education and the good relationships between pupils and teachers. Interactive worship and RE displays, both in classes and central areas, engage pupils and promote prayer, reflection and spirituality, and this together with the school's strong Christian ethos, has a positive impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The school's recent Ofsted concluded that spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good.

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

Collective worship reflects the school's distinctive Christian character and is at the heart of school life. Pupils enjoy worship and display positive attitudes to it. They participate well. A range of hymns and songs is used, and pupils sing well and with enthusiasm. Worship is a valuable experience for all pupils and it has a positive impact on the spiritual development of the pupils. Worship clearly impacts on pupils' daily lives. One pupil, when asked why worship was special, commented 'We are all together so we can pray and learning about Jesus can change our behaviour. We can try to be better!' Daily worship is the focal point of the school day and a time for all pupils to come together. Worship is stimulating and meaningful. It is planned, delivered and evaluated well. The school worship committee is very effective in aiding this good practice and involves staff and pupils. Pupils enjoy worship and participate well. They say that they would like to be able to plan and lead more school worship. There are times set aside for quiet personal reflection and prayer, which has a positive impact on pupils' excellent spiritual and moral development. Indeed worship as a whole contributes well to pupils' spiritual and moral development. It also has a positive impact on relationships, values, teaching and learning. It enables pupils to recognise their responsibilities to others and to reflect on community and personal values. Pupils make good progress in their spiritual development and reflect a sense of wonder and awe about God's creation.

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

Religious education (RE) is an integral part of school life. It lies at the heart of the curriculum and it makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. RE is taught effectively using a range of styles, including shared discussion, talk

partners and role play. Pupils are able to talk about and reflect on the work covered. Throughout the school, pupils experience whole class and group teaching with opportunities for research as appropriate. Pupils enjoy RE and say that it is important to them and the life of the school. They relate their learning to their own experiences and articulate what Christian faith means to them. One pupil remarked, 'RE tells us about God, he's the person we believe in, God and his son Jesus are our models to live up to.' They work hard and behave well in lessons. Pupils are challenged and given time to reflect on what they are learning, and this aids spiritual development throughout the school. Good standards are attained by pupils across both key stages. Pupils make good progress in RE, achieving above standards in other core subjects, and in line with national and diocesan expectations. Pupils are confident and talk openly about their beliefs and points of view. Pupils show a good understanding of the importance of Easter and why the Eucharist is important for Christians. 'Jesus died and rose to show Christians not to be scared; there is life after death and it's with God,' said a further pupil reflecting on the nature of the Christian faith. Teaching seen was good. Planning of RE is good and assessment and monitoring procedures are in place, though these are not equally thorough or consistent across the school.

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

The headteacher leads by example and her personal Christian values permeate the life of the school which is reflected in the calm, happy, purposeful ethos of the school. She has a strong and clear Christian vision for the school and she is now well supported in this by the senior leadership team and the governing body. The evaluation of the school as a church school is thorough and largely accurate. Governors now contribute significantly to the school's good procedures for evaluating its effectiveness as a church school. Parents now need to be more involved in the evaluation of this church school. There are regular questionnaires completed by parents and pupils. Parents realize that the Christian aspects of the school, such as the clear Christian values promoted by the school, are important and they say that these contribute significantly to pupils' growing spiritual development. Pupils and parents appreciate the distinctive Christian nature of the school and speak highly of it. Pupils' views are taken seriously and they have a leading role in the decision making process of the school through their active involvement in the School Council and School Worship committee. The school operates an open door policy and the views of parents are actively sought, valued and acted upon.

SIAMS report January 2014 St James Lanehead, Burnley Lancashire BB10 2NH