



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

### Staining Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Staining Road, Staining, Blackpool, FY3 0BW

**Previous SIAMS grade: Good**

**Current inspection grade: Good**

**Diocese: Blackburn**

Local authority: Lancashire

Date of inspection: 12 March 2015

Date of last inspection: March 2010

School's unique reference number: 119375

Headteacher: Ann Griffiths

Inspector's name and number: Mike Graham 286

#### School context

Staining Church of England Primary School is of average size. The school is situated in the Fylde village of Staining. The vast majority of pupils are of white British background. The number of children eligible for pupil premium funding is below the national average. The number of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is a little below average. The vicar has been in post for eighteen months.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Staining as a Church of England school are good

- The strong Christian leadership of the headteacher, enthusiastically endorsed and supported by all staff and governors, has an extremely positive impact on the progress and wellbeing of all the children.
- Excellent church/school links, with headteacher, vicar and foundation governors to the fore, are empowered and flourish through the commitment of both communities, and are mutually beneficial.
- Varied, sincere and lively worship, with children prominent in leadership and evaluation, together with good teaching and learning in religious education (RE), make a significant impact on the spiritual growth of the whole school family.

#### Areas to improve

- Fully involve the governing body in regular reviews of the distinctiveness of the school's Christian mission, so as to strengthen their role as 'critical friends'.
- Involve the whole school family, particularly the children, in the development of a new child-friendly mission statement or motto that celebrates the school's loving Christ-centred ethos. This is so that children's ownership and understanding and their Christian witness are reinforced.

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

Christian values are embedded in the life of the school and are making a significant impact. The children understand these values and know how to apply them in day-to-day life. Achievement overall is good, and the data shows that excellent work with vulnerable children led by the learning mentor is bearing fruit, with exceptional progress being made. The successes in these areas stem from the confidence and trust built up through loving Christian relationships and good to outstanding teaching. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children is outstanding. They are respectful, joyful and very well behaved. Relationships in school are based on love and forgiveness, and understanding and acceptance of other cultures and faiths is impressive. A Year 5 child said that learning about other faiths is important 'so that we can understand and respect them'. RE makes an invaluable contribution to the Christian character of the school. It provides a convincing foundation for the Christ-centred values that drive the school. Two foundation governors are regular visitors, bringing Bible stories to life in school, and this adds an extra dimension to the excellent teaching of Christianity. There are many other clubs involving the arts, sport, gardening and cookery, which widen the children's experience and enrich their lives. Parents and carers appreciate the supportive work done with families by the learning mentor, whose own description of the role, 'turning frowns upside down', sums up her success succinctly. Clear Christian values are brought to bear when working on issues of attendance. The building of trust and the loving support given ensures that families respond positively. However, the mission statement does not do justice to this excellent ethos.

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

Everyone in the school family relishes the times of worship, because they are relevant, sincere and full of variety. The worship is very effective in setting the Christian values into the context of Bible teaching, in particular the life and example of Jesus Christ. The impact on all is striking. Children and adults respond with enthusiasm in quiet reflection and prayer and in lively singing. Teaching about the Trinity is effective and appropriate. For example, some outstanding insights were shared by a group of Year 5 and Year 6 children. One Year 6 boy said that the Holy Spirit 'came with wind and fire and brought power to the disciples'. Children's prayers are frequently used in worship and in other parts of the day when appropriate. Spontaneous prayer is less well developed, but a great grandmother said with pride of her great granddaughter, 'She came home one day and asked me to pray with her, and of course I did!' The planning, leading and evaluation of worship are extremely effective and involve all groups in the school community, showing how the school has moved on since the last inspection. It is notable that Year 6 children plan and lead the whole school regularly in worship in school, church and the village community centre. The Mothers' Day service is led with laughter, enthusiasm and excellent singing, praying and reading by the younger children. The children's personal and spiritual development clearly benefit from these opportunities. Parents and carers are warmly welcomed to both class-led worship and festival celebratory worship. They are thrilled to be included, with one parent commenting, 'These services are very special. All the children have a part to play'. Everyone in the school community recognises the positive impact made by worship and Christian values on the attitudes and behaviour of the children.

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

The headteacher, vicar, governors and staff promote and exemplify a distinctive Christian vision for the school. The partnership between recently appointed vicar and headteacher is seen as crucial. The vicar says that 'supporting the head pastorally' is key, and aims to develop his role in RE. There is a strong emphasis on Christian values as the basis for all decisions, and as the motivation for the excellence of behaviour and attitudes. The vicar comments, 'Loving one another is lived out here'. Friendship, love and care for each other are prominent. The

improvements in achievement in academic subjects as well as in RE are directly linked to this positive ethos. The children are secure and have no fear of making mistakes. The loving and caring Christianity that drives the school promotes the wellbeing of the whole school community. The headteacher leads by example with love and care for all, and with her leadership team ensures that the vision makes the maximum impact by providing thorough and far-reaching evaluation and strategic planning. This is a team effort, with high quality coaching, in-service training and delegation, all of which supports the development of leadership within school and for the future. Both RE and worship meet statutory requirements. Areas for development from the previous report have been built into recent development planning, with worship evaluation fully embedded. However, the governors' role as 'critical friends' is still underdeveloped. Partnerships with the church, the diocese and the wider community are strong and mutually beneficial. For instance, the church and school combine in the development of children's spirituality through worship and RE. The vicar is involved in worship at least termly and foundation governors teach RE regularly. Parents and carers are immensely proud of their school and have ready access to staff. The head regularly reminds them that her door is always open. Comments include, 'The staff are all very welcoming' and 'It's the centre of the community. Everybody matters'

SIAMS report March 2015, Staining CofE Primary, Staining, Blackpool, FY3 0BW