



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Preesall Fleetwood's Charity Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Mill Street
Preesall
Poulton-le-Fylde
FY6 0NN

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Blackburn

Local authority: Lancashire

Date of inspection: 30 April 2015

Date of last inspection: 9 March 2010

School's unique reference number: 119558

Headteacher: John Belshire

Inspector's name and number: Gail Goodman (571)

School context

Preesall Fleetwood's Charity School is a smaller than average primary school of 113 pupils. There are five mixed age classes and an independent pre-school class. This popular school draws its pupils locally and from the surrounding villages. Almost all pupils are white European. A number of children from the travelling community had been on roll for five years and failed to return this year. The headteacher has been in post for ten years. Ofsted inspectors appraised the school in October 2014. St Oswald's Church is situated twenty minutes' walk away. The church priest retired in May 2014.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Preesall Fleetwood's as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The Christian values and ethos, and the demonstration of God's love through care and compassion, guide all aspects of school life.
- Children of all faiths and none are fully engaged in both worship and religious education (RE). Highly effective teaching leads to outstanding levels of spiritual development.
- The headteacher and staff, supported effectively by the governors, use a system of self evaluation, based on a distinctive Christian vision. This leads directly to effective planning and school improvement.
- Links with the parish church are strong and families value the care, support and guidance that the school offers.

Areas to improve

- Create a new logo for the school so that the outstanding impact made by the school's values and centred on Jesus, are proclaimed simply, but emphatically.

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

The school places great emphasis on Christian values, which are deeply embedded in the daily life of the school. All members of the school community are highly aware of these values, such as fortitude, forgiveness and tolerance, and how they make the outstanding educational provision at this school so exciting. Staff and children respect each other, are cared for and nurtured to reach their full potential. This is reinforced by the excellent relationships between all learners. Pupils comment, 'We all look after each other, we are like a big family, and friends in the community'. This is evident in the use of 'buddies' in school, and in the children's active peer mentoring roles. This Christian distinctiveness is having a significant impact on personal, health and social education (PHSE). As a result, pupils excel in academic achievement, and in their own personal development, including spiritual, moral, social and cultural education (SMSC). The impact of this is seen in the exceptionally high results in all pupils. One parent comments, 'this is a happy place where children love coming to school'. This is borne out by the high levels of attendance and excellent behaviour, and confirms the distinctively Christian characteristics of the school's values. Indeed, one foundation governor explains, 'Christian values work well and are responsible for how we get good results. The children are respectful of themselves and others. They are self confident and developing into well-rounded citizens, ready for the wide world'. RE has a significant impact on all learners' spiritual development. This is evidenced in their active involvement in discussion and willingness to ask questions, demonstrating insight and a deepening of faith issues. The school has a well established and on-going church link with a school and children's centre in Kenya. The local church missionary visits school often to update all pupils on developments and the ongoing improved lives of the children. Pupils are highly aware of the differences and diversity within this faith community. This is seen in their engaging and respectful displays in school upon the centre and an understanding of the worldwide Christian church. Local city school links are developing in the building of the very successful Forest School on site. This has resulted in the school achieving the highest award available in the Eco Schools' Green flag for the excellent activities experienced in this outdoor environment. Pupils enjoy many extra-curricular activities in the arts, crafts and sports clubs, as identified in their winning the Active Mark and National Healthy School Status. When asked what was special about Preesall Fleetwood's Charity School, one of the school council members explains, 'We get to know the path of God, and are able to speak to God'.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Inspirational and inclusive collective worship is an important focal point of this school community, permeating all aspects of school life. Worship themes which influence spiritual reflection, are used in planning. Full account is taken of the Christian calendar, and the significance of practising Christian values. This enables all worshippers to encounter a wide range of Anglican tradition and practice. Children, staff and governors take an active part in this daily act of praise, and speak very positively of its significant value in school. They ensure monitoring and evaluation is rigorous and well structured, thereby keeping worship fresh and stimulating. Pupils regularly attend worship in church, including Harvest, Christmas and Leavers' Service. The links with the church community are strong with many local churchgoers attending these services. Children now enjoy leading and taking part in worship, demonstrating how they have moved on from the last inspection. They clearly articulate an understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Children say, 'We can see God and Jesus, but the Holy Spirit is the love we give each other'. Prayer and reflection are of a high focus. Pupils write prayers which are placed in prayer books, on the Prayer Tree, and used in church services. Children listen attentively, answer questions willingly and participate enthusiastically in song, drama, prayer and reflection. They think about forgiveness and 'turning over a new leaf'. They act out the story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector, with great enthusiasm and respect for the moral of the parable. This strength of character in reconciliation and compassion is seen in the children's work and play with others in school. There is a strong link with St Oswald's Church. Whilst the local priest retired last year, links have been forged with one of the foundation governors, an ordained minister. She leads both church and school worship, demonstrating the close relationships, and the impact of a Christian school ethos, upon the whole community.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

RE has a high profile within the school's curriculum. Outstanding teaching and rigorous assessment ensure standards are exceptionally high, in line with core subjects. RE is given full status as a core subject with high levels of attainment and progress. Pupils reflect upon the thoughts, feelings and actions of others during RE and worship. Excellent examples include one child, portraying Moses' mother. Children ask searching questions in a 'hot seat' situation. Her answers are both insightful and powerful, for example, 'I really wanted my baby to have a life'. This demonstrates an acute understanding by the pupils of the difficult decisions made by Jochebed. Children are able to apply their knowledge and skills to think more deeply. One child declares, 'church is love, community, family and friends', using her own understanding of the purpose of a church. Pupils fully engage in RE lessons and teachers use innovative techniques to make learning fun as well as challenging for all learners. Planning, monitoring and assessment are well organised by the co-ordinator. She plans a rich and varied curriculum which meets statutory requirements. The teaching of Christianity is given prominence following the diocesan syllabus well. There are many interactive and thought provoking displays around the school, emphasising the impact, and structure, of other world-wide faiths. A day devoted to spirituality was well received, with the Bishop of Lancaster commenting, 'the school community giving a whole day to think about prayer, and to be involved in praying, is wonderful'. The school has identified the importance of holding a multi faith week which has yet to take place. This will include visits to a mosque, temple and synagogue, enriching the children's understanding of other cultures and beliefs. Pupils clearly recognise the importance of diversity. They have established links, and exchanged visits, with a school which embraces, and celebrates, a number of other cultures and faiths.

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

The explicit Christian vision that is articulated so well by the leadership team, including governors, is demonstrated to excellent effect by the headteacher. His Christian commitment and love shine out in every aspect of his leadership. The governors and whole staff team aim to live out the Christian vision daily. They readily articulate the impact of explicit Christian values on the life of the whole school community. Exemplary relationships across all ages show the key role that Christian values play within school. This includes the many charities who have benefitted through the school's generosity. The newly amended mission statement states that this is 'a unique school where children are encouraged to fulfil their hopes and aspirations both academically and spiritually'. This results in high standards and pupils' well being. The active involvement of the chair of governors, through regular visits, shows the commitment of all governors in supporting the explicit Christian ethos. Governors monitor performance and achievement and challenge and support the headteacher and staff. The school has accurate self evaluation in place, which fully informs future development. Strategic, and successive, planning ensure highly effective leadership in both staff and governors. Strong partnerships exist between school and church, enriching the life of both. Joint events are exceptionally well attended and parishioners offer practical support to the work of the school. Parents are very proud of the school and the impact of the Christian values on the lives of learners. They welcome open communication with the school, including a weekly newsletter. Parents comment, 'teachers are very approachable and gladly inform us of progress at all times'. The leadership of worship and RE is afforded high importance and leads to outstanding practice in both areas. Pupils recognise the importance of their school logo, declaring in unison, when asked, 'A school that stands upon a hill cannot be hidden', adapted from Matthew 5:14. However, the school acknowledges that a new logo should reflect, visually, the Christian vision and spirituality of all learners. Preesall Fleetwood's Charity School has worked hard, and very successfully, to put children at the heart of its mission.

SIAMS report, April 2015, Preesall Fleetwood's CE (VA) School, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 0NN