



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Hale Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hesketh Road
Hale Village Liverpool
L24 4AN

Previous SIAS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Good

Diocese: Liverpool

Local authority: **Halton**

Dates of inspection: 23 June 2016

Date of last inspection: 18 March 2011

School's unique reference number: 111294

Headteacher: Marianne Mowatt

Inspector's name and number: Paul Adnitt 590

School context

The school is a smaller than average primary school with currently 145 pupils on roll. Almost all the pupils are of white British heritage. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs supported in school is above average. There has been an increase in the number of pupils and changes to the teaching staff since the last inspection.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Hale C.E. as a Church of England school are good

- The outstanding and distinctive Christian ethos permeates all aspects of school life and has an important and affirmative impact on pupils' personal and spiritual development. This is evidenced in excellent pupil behaviour and relationships.
- Strong links between school, home and the local church, underpinned by gospel values, provide a positive Christian witness in the wider community.
- The exemplary Christian leadership of the headteacher, supported by a strong governing body, ensures that the school's Christian character has a strong impact on pupils' academic achievement and spiritual growth.

Areas to improve

- Involve pupils more regularly in planning, leading and evaluating worship in order to deepen their spiritual awareness and understanding of worship and prayer.
- Provide further and varied opportunities for pupils to gain a good knowledge of other faiths. This will enable pupils to understand and make links between the beliefs, practices and value systems of other faiths and cultures studied.

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

The school's distinctively Christian ethos nourishes, encourages and challenges the spiritual and cultural development of the whole community. The school's core Christian values, each one linked with a class, are made explicit and are deeply embedded in the daily life of the school. These Christian values, including love, forgiveness and thankfulness clearly contribute to pupils' behaviour which is outstanding. One pupil commented, 'We follow our Christian values to make sure that we are doing the right thing. When we learn about them it helps us to understand ourselves and others.' The staff and governors expound these core gospel values by example, evidenced by the excellent quality of relationships between all members of the school community. This, together with the emphasis on caring for others, makes an exceptional contribution to the pupils' social and moral development. All pupils feel safe and special and have positive attitudes to their learning. They know they are valued and loved by staff. The pupils are proud of their school and speak confidently about why it is special to them. One pupil commented, 'We all love and care for each other. We respect what others are good at and value their opinions.' This has a positive impact on the pupils' excellent personal development and good school attendance. Pupils are highly motivated, exhibit a love for learning and enjoy being in school. This has a significant effect on the good academic standards and progress achieved by the end of Key Stage 2. Parents are very positive about the Christian ethos of the school. One parent commented, 'Christian values and spiritual life are at the centre of the school. It's a real family school.' Interactive worship and religious education (RE) displays both in classrooms and central areas engage pupils and promote prayer, reflection and spirituality. They are a constant reminder that the school is a place where the Christian faith is alive and nurtured. This enables and encourages all the pupils to experience a rich and varied prayer life. Pupils have a thorough understanding and awareness of Christianity as a relevant, multi-cultural and vibrant living faith. This is strengthened by the school's commitment to supporting local and international Christian charities. Good and imaginative teaching in RE contributes well to the pupils' spiritual development. It is well planned, monitored and evaluated by the subject leader. However their knowledge and experience of other faith communities is limited. Pupils enjoy RE and say it is important to them and the life of the school.

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. Daily acts of worship enhance the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Bible, the Christian faith and God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pupils are confident when discussing their faith and demonstrate a growing spiritual maturity. They enjoy worship, display positive attitudes to it and participate well. Worship is a valuable experience for all pupils and it has a positive impact on their spiritual development and on their daily lives. One pupil commented, 'We know Jesus is with

us in worship. It's good for us to come together to thank and praise God.' Good planning ensures that there is both variety and continuity and that themes are rooted in the school's Christian values and the teachings of the Bible. Each class has their own value, on which they reflect throughout the year and present as class led worship. This increases their understanding of the school's core Christian values. A range of members from the wider school community, such as the vicar and members of the senior staff, contribute to planning and evaluation. This in turn identifies where improvement is needed and informs future developments. The vicar visits regularly to lead worship and to run the Church on Tuesday after school club. She is well liked by the pupils who clearly value her part in school life. One pupil said, 'She is very important. If we didn't have her we wouldn't know and understand all the Bible stories. She is also really fun and kind to everyone.' Pupils enjoy contributing to worship and are increasingly taking responsibility for readings, prayers and leading class worship. Year 6 pupils also help to lead the regular school Eucharist services. Although pupils have these opportunities to lead worship they say that they would like to be able to plan, lead and evaluate worship on a more regular basis. There are times set aside for quiet personal reflection and prayer, both in formal and informal contexts. This has a very positive impact on pupils' good spiritual and moral development. Many make use of prayer in their own lives and contribute prayers to school worship, often through the school 'Prayer Box'. Worship enables pupils to recognise their responsibilities to others and to reflect on community and personal values. This is evidenced in pupils' involvement in charitable work and local and national fundraising activities for Sport Relief, Water Aid, overseas disasters and local charitable initiatives such as the local Foodbank and the women's refuge.

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

The headteacher is a dedicated Christian leader who takes all possible opportunities to promote Hale as a vibrant church school. She leads by example and her Christian faith has a significant influence on the life of the school. This contributes greatly to the school's outstanding Christian distinctiveness. The headteacher has a strong and clear Christian vision for the school and leads spiritual development. Following Christ's example she ensures that all, including vulnerable pupils, are nurtured, loved, cared for and supported. She is ably assisted in this by the senior leadership team and the governing body, who are fully committed to their roles and responsibilities. Providing professional development for all staff and governors is a high priority within the school. This has ensured that leadership of both RE and collective worship is a strength of the school and that future church school leaders are developed. The school leadership's evaluation of the school as a church school is thorough and accurate. Governors contribute significantly to this process and have a strong commitment to the school's Christian foundation. A recently formed Christian Identity group, consisting of members of the governing body and staff, is helping to clarify the present position of Hale C.E. Primary as a distinctive, motivated and caring Anglican church school. All areas for development from the previous inspection have been fully implemented. 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. The

school works with and for the community and enjoys excellent links with the church and the locality. These links include taking part in the Hale Carnival and opening up the school Nativity to the whole community. This ensures that the school is at the heart of village life. This helps pupils understand the involvement of the church in the local and wider context. Pastoral care, family values and community spirit are highly effective and celebrated. This is a school where all are welcomed and experience the living out of a consistent Christian vision.

SIAMS report June2016 Hale C.E. Liverpool L24 4AN