

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Luke's Church of England (VC) Primary School

Leek Road, Endon Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST9 9EB

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese	Lichfield
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Local authority	Staffordshire
Date of inspection	24 November 2016
Date of last inspection	11 December 2011
Type of school and unique reference number	Primary 124250
Headteacher	P Wright
Inspector's name and number	R M Gale 337

School context

St Luke's Church of England VC Primary School is a one-form entry school serving the village of Endon and the surrounding area. Almost all 219 pupils are of white British heritage and the proportion eligible for free school meals and with special educational needs and / or disabilities is below average. Since the previous inspection in 2011 there have been three headteachers at the school. The current headteacher has been in post since September 2015. The school was last inspected by Ofsted in October 2016 and was judged to be maintaining its good standards. The school has strong links with the local parish community and works in close partnership with other local schools.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Luke's Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The outstanding leadership of the headteacher, strongly supported by staff as they proclaim Gospel principles as the basis for distinctive and clear Christian values that guide every aspect of school life.
- The positive impact of Christian values on inspiring pupils' learning so that they achieve well and make very good progress.
- Worship that is joyful, warm, relevant and personalised so that every pupil has the opportunity to develop their own spirituality, supported strongly by leaders and members of the parish community.
- The outstanding behaviour of pupils and the passion they demonstrate in living out the school's Christian values.

Areas to improve

- Further support pupils' reflection by developing an appropriate space in the school grounds.
- Provide pupils with opportunities to deepen their understanding of diversity and difference in the wider society.

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

This vibrant school community thrives within an atmosphere in which the development of the whole child is secured through a strong commitment to Christian values. The school's mission statement 'Together in faith we will succeed' is lived out through core Christian principles which bind the school community together. Everyone is welcomed into this family atmosphere where all pupils are encouraged to make positive choices to succeed and develop into responsible, caring citizens. Christian faith guides the actions of all within this school. One pupil explained, "we need to be like Jesus and make choices like he did, if you struggle with this, then pray and God will help you". The school lives out its three main Christian values of caring, respect and responsibility supported by the '5B's' of being the best you can be, being considerate, determined, resilient, honest and positive. Clearly these core values, the life and teaching of Jesus and positive behaviour strategies are having a profound impact on pupils, and on the choices they are encouraged to make. Pupils understand that the teachings of Jesus influence their daily life, "we look up to him" they said. The school's proclamation of these values is also evident in the outstanding relationships between all members of the school community. They work together as one effective community. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding is outstanding because of this focused Christian ethos and pastoral care. Academic attainment in 2016 was above the national average in headline figures for most areas and groups of pupils and the progress information for pupils in school now shows that this level of success will continue. This is because the outstanding Christian environment creates a culture in which all pupils feel secure and supported and this enables them to learn confidently. Successful systems are in place to monitor outcomes and target interventions to ensure the needs of all pupils are addressed. This success is also closely interwoven with the development of pupils' personal spirituality. Learning and worship are interlinked and pupils can talk about their beliefs and their importance and are given many opportunities to do so in lessons as well as during worship. The roles of pupil leaders in worship, sports, eco issues and house captains are valued highly. Pupils know that they have a voice that will be heard and that their views are respected. Parents, too, say that they feel part of the school's family community and this encourages them to be proactive with school. Pupils' efforts are constantly acknowledged and celebrated and, as a result, pupils want to be in school. They see their school as an exciting place to be. This results in very good levels of attendance and punctuality. Pupils' behaviour and attitude to learning is exemplary because they enjoy and appreciate all the learning experiences they are given. Many of these experiences extend beyond the school day. Pupils enjoy this broad and rich curriculum which is creative, interactive and weaves across subject boundaries making learning wholesome and relevant. This is enriched by attractive displays and classroom reflection/worship areas which link subject topics to Christian values. This helps to widen pupils' knowledge and understanding. Christian signs and symbols reinforce the school's distinctiveness and support pupils' spiritual awareness. The school has a strong commitment to Christian stewardship and supports a range of charities. These fund-raising events, which include a local, national and global focus and the work of the choir within the community all celebrate the school's Christian outreach. In all these ways, pupils are committed, daily, to making a difference to the lives of others as well as their own families. Pupils speak convincingly of the importance of caring, kindness and showing generosity and are able to link these values to the teaching of Jesus and the Gospels. Pupils talk positively about religious education (RE) and how this contributes to the Christian character of the school. Monitoring by the RE subject leader shows that the RE scheme of work impacts well upon this. Pupils have a growing understanding of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith and the diversity between faith communities. Pupils have a good sense of self-belief and self-worth and are being prepared well for their journey in life.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The school promotes acts of collective worship, sometimes called assembly, in a setting which encourages participation rather than passive attendance, thus making it special and distinct. It is central to the life of the school and makes a significant impact on pupils' lives. It is planned carefully by the RE coordinator and the Headteacher and supported by the vicar. They have a holistic approach and include themes based on the Bible, Christian values, and Christian festivals, as well as those of other faiths and events of national significance. Jesus is at the heart of all the school does and worship helps pupils to understand how the teaching of Jesus guides Christians in their daily lives. Pupils enter and leave worship reverently and interact and share ideas on the chosen theme through talking together as well as reflecting silently. Pupils sing and sign their praise with great joy. The worship area or a worship display is the focal point during worship and the hall is enriched with a range of displays on the walls exemplifying aspects such as creation, salvation and redemption. Pupils enjoy and value worship which they know gives them the space to be quiet and reflect; "it helps me to know that God is with me and I have time to talk to him" and "it helps me to be calm and have peace and quiet". They say that Bible stories challenge them to think about their own behaviour, they feel that worship helps them to, "make choices and to think about how they can help in their community, just like Jesus". Pupils are beginning to explain about the importance of the Trinity and use practical examples to support their developing knowledge of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Worship is led by a range of leaders including teachers and the vicar. This gives pupils experience of a range of worship styles. They particularly value the

charismatic style of their headteacher in leading worship and can recall the content and the message vividly. This variety of styles helps pupils to understand the broad nature of worship including Anglican tradition and practice. There is a very active link with the parish community. There is a Sunday "Connections" service in the school hall and an after school Christian club led by groups of parents and parishioners. The vicar is popular amongst pupils who value his presence around school especially in leading worship. He meets regularly with pupils and staff and they pray together. Prayer is given a high profile in worship and pupils participate fully in public and private prayer in school. Pupils know the value of prayer in worship; they are supported in developing prayer using "TSP", saying 'thank you, sorry and please'. The Lord's Prayer is known by the majority of the pupils. They particularly enjoy class worship which affords them the opportunity to be creative and lead worship in a smaller, more intimate setting. Each class has a pupil worship leader and a worship area which is easily accessible to the pupils. These areas reflect differences across the age-range and provide another opportunity for pupils to nurture their personal spirituality. Opportunities for personal prayer are valued by the pupils and many speak about times in their life when prayer has been helpful to them. Pupils can place prayer requests in a prayer box which are then sensitively used in worship. Feedback on worship is obtained from pupils, staff, parents and governors and this is evaluated, discussed and forms part of whole school development. Pupils and their parents visit church for the principal Christian festivals. A significant number of parents attend the Friday celebration worship in school as well as other formal occasions. This conclusion to the school week sends pupils home inspired to work even harder. Monitoring the impact of worship is carried out by governors, staff and pupils. This feedback is evaluated, discussed and forms part of school development. Key Christian festivals are celebrated at St Luke's church and pupils enthusiastically take an active part in them.

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

The headteacher, senior leaders and governors are effective in articulating the school's distinctive Christian vision and ethos and in promoting that ethos throughout the school to support effective learning. They share a common vision for the school as a Church of England school. They live out this vision in their actions and plans. They are committed to creating outstanding Christian environment in which all aspects of pupils' development and wellbeing are fostered and promoted through biblical teaching and Christian values. This contributes strongly to the good outcomes that all groups of pupils now enjoy. The headteacher's own Christian faith is very evident in all aspects of his leadership in school and he attributes pupils' successful learning to their ability to draw on an understanding of the Christian way of life using Jesus as their role model and making positive choices. Pupils and parents agree with this. Foundation governors are knowledgeable, experienced and passionate about their school and have a clear understanding of their role. They are highly committed and support the school in a number of ways, including regular visits to school. Action plans for RE and Christian distinctiveness are included in the school's improvement planning and are discussed at governors' meetings. Leaders seek the views of parents and pupils in reviewing the school and use every opportunity to challenge, monitor and evaluate the school's work. School leaders and governors are successful in ensuring that the academic, pastoral and spiritual needs of all groups of pupils are met. Issues raised at the last inspection have been fully addressed. RE and collective worship are led with commitment and there is a genuine desire to find ways to improve still further. Governors are totally committed to the professional development of all staff in school. Parents appreciate the dedicated work of staff in supporting their children's personal and spiritual development as well as their academic success. They speak highly of the headteacher and the staff and the school's family ethos and Christian values. They emphasise that it has a staff team that are approachable and easy to access. They state that the influence of the school reaches into the hearts of families and impacts positively on their lives. Members of the church family are part of the school community and support the school. Wider community links are also effective. The leadership team have managed to inter-link religious education, PSHE (personal, social, and health education), SMSC (spiritual, social moral cultural education), British values and academic achievement within their core Christian values. This ensures that pupils have a clear understanding of the importance of these values and how they affect their lives. Everyone is committed to ensuring that the school offers the very best to its pupils. Inspirational words and bible verses displayed around the school challenge pupils to adopt a "can do attitude". All pupils speak with maturity of the importance of team work through the school council and the actions of worship leaders and their responsibility for God's world. The RE subject leader, who supports the worship co-ordinator, is effective in her monitoring and evaluation responsibilities. This has a positive impact on pupils, particularly in their understanding of Christian values. All at St Luke's clearly understand that their school is a Christian school which makes it unique and special to them.

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