



## Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Diocese of St Albans



**All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**  
Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5BE

**LA:** Hertfordshire  
**SIAS Inspection:** 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
**Previous SIAS Inspection:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
**URN:** 117472  
**Headteacher:** Mr Chris Parker  
**SIAS Inspector:** Lindsay Fraser  
**Inspector Number:** 107

### School context

All Saints Primary School serves part of the town of Bishop's Stortford. Most pupils are from a White British background. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and those eligible for free school meals are below average. Children's attainment on entry to the Nursery is broadly average.

### Summary Judgement

All Saints Primary School is a good church school, where the clear vision of the headteacher and leadership team is underpinned by Christian values. Relationships are outstanding throughout the school and make a positive impact on pupils' development. Good links with the local church and community enhance the effectiveness of the school.

### Established strengths

- The shared vision of the leadership team to further develop this church school
- The relationships and behaviour of pupils which are underpinned by Christian values
- The strong partnership with the local church
- The impact of the environment on spiritual development

### Focus for development

- To develop a system of monitoring and evaluating by the Governing Body for Collective Worship and Religious Education
- To explore ways of making links with other faiths
- To find ways in which to engage the older children in Collective Worship

**The school is outstanding in meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian ethos.**

This is because Christian values underpin the work of the whole school. Responsibility is a very important Christian value promoted through the school which has a significant impact upon the children; the buddy system between Year 6 and Reception pupils is seen as a real strength by pupils and parents. Tolerance is also demonstrated by older children who have acquired the ability to resolve conflicts with integrity. Staff and pupils have approached the issue of inclusion with genuine care and compassion with very positive results. The passion with which the children support the school eco-project is demonstrated throughout the school, together with their understanding that this is their corporate responsibility. The whole school environment, both internally and externally, supports the strong Christian ethos and Anglican heritage. The school hall has key Christian symbols displayed around the room, as well as a reflection area. The values tree in the entrance foyer clearly displays the values work. This is further personalised by the inclusion within each classroom of a 'thought box' and reflective area. All pupils value the use of a thought box where they can share their thoughts and concerns. Parents see the practical application of the impact of Christian values in the enthusiasm of children to contribute to the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

**The impact of Collective Worship on learners is good.**

Collective Worship is good because of the quality of provision, the strong support given by Father Kevin, his presence in the school and the very close links with the church. The school uses the church for a variety of services, but the church also uses the school for services such as the celebration of Eucharist on Ash Wednesday. The school also helps to prepare the church for the Corpus Christi evening service when pupils are invited to bring in petals to create Christian symbols to decorate the church. Pupils are involved in leading Collective Worship through their participation in the Harvest celebrations and class led worship, to which parents are invited. The school's Collective Worship programme provides a strong basis for worship and reinforces the importance of Christian values in pupils' everyday lives. Singing is a strong element of Collective Worship where pupils enjoy the opportunity to lead the solo in the 'Song of Blessing'. Class Collective Worship enables pupils to be more engaged than whole school Collective Worship where older pupils do not always appreciate the relevance to their own lives. As no system for monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship is yet in place, strategies have yet to be identified to develop pupils' understanding of spirituality and the relevance of Collective Worship. One observed act of class worship enabled pupils to appreciate the use and symbolism of light, not only in Christianity, but also in other faiths together with the celebration of light to symbolise the triumph of good over evil.

**The impact of Religious Education on learners is good.**

Achievement in RE is in line with achievement in other subjects and national expectations. Provision for RE is of a good quality and ensures a good balance of learning objectives for both attainment targets; pupils enjoy most aspects of RE. The use of Diocesan units of work has been welcomed by teachers and these are already beginning to enhance the schemes of work. The recently appointed RE subject leader understands well where the school is in terms of standards and whole school assessment and she has a clear vision for the next steps in this subject. A tracking system for attainment and whole class progress is now in place and as its use becomes more embedded teachers will be more able to plan for progression. Pupils are aware of and understand the marking system which enables them to know how they can improve. Teachers are already aware of the need to stretch the more able pupils and a lesson was observed in Year 6, where more able pupils were encouraged to think deeply about the application of the Buddhist eightfold truths to everyday situations. Although small in number, pupils from other faiths are encouraged, where appropriate, to share their experiences with their class. Through Collective Worship and RE the teachers ensure that pupils have a good knowledge of other faiths. The school has rightly identified that links do need to be furthered with members of other faith groups.

**The leadership and management of the school as a church school are good.**

This is because the headteacher, governors and leaders have an understanding of the distinctiveness of the school as a church school and support the development of its Christian character. The prospectus, policies, websites and other documentation promote the school as a church school and are underpinned by a mission statement and vision which are based on Christian values. However, there is currently no regular agenda item for the Governing Body to discuss the impact of Collective Worship and Religious Education within the school. A strong feature is the partnership with the local church and clergy because the school is involved in the church and the church is also involved in the school. Acts of Worship are held to which members of the community are invited. Strong relationships exist with both the church and the local community, enabling children to have a clear sense of their local community. Parents are very supportive of the school and believe that their children benefit from the Christian values which pervade the school and their children's respect for those of other faiths. Parents feel that the Christian character of the school has become more established and with greater impact since the previous inspection. The capacity of the school to further improve is good.