

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Rawtenstall St. Paul's Constable Lee Church of England Primary School

Hollin Lane
Rawtenstall
Rossendale
BB4 8HT

Diocese: Manchester

Local authority: Lancashire
Dates of inspection: 25.3.10
Date of last inspection: October 2006
School's unique reference number: 119367
Headteacher: Mrs Suzanne Howard
Inspector's name and number: Mr Trevor Croasdale

School context

Rawtenstall St. Paul's Constable Lee Church of England Primary School is a slightly larger than average primary school serving the town of Rawtenstall. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is well below average. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic heritage is average as is the proportion of pupils who do not speak English as their first language. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, including those with a statement of special educational needs, is below average. There is a before and after school club on the same site.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Rawtenstall St. Paul's Constable Lee Church of England Primary School as a Church of England school are good

The school has a distinctive Christian ethos. Throughout the school Christian values and attitudes are evident and there is a determination and the capacity on the part of the leadership team to further develop this in the coming years. The quality of relationships which exists within the school are a good example of the effectiveness of the ethos which exists here. Links with the parish church have developed well since the last inspection and it is the will of all concerned that they will grow even closer in the years to come.

Established strengths

- The quality of relationships which exist at St. Paul's;
- The Christian vision and leadership of the Head Teacher is well supported by the governing body;
- The capacity for change and development as a church school.

Focus for development

- Involve the governors in monitoring and evaluating St Paul's as a church school
- Increase the children's involvement in the planning, evaluation and delivery of worship;
- Develop worship, especially the spiritual dimension, through the increased involvement of all participants.

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

The school has a distinct Christian ethos which plays a significant part in the children's personal development. Children interviewed on the day commented that you could tell that this is a church school because, "We look after each other here and we also help other people in need". Pupils say that they feel valued and safe in school and indeed are confident that they are well looked after and would know who to approach if they were unhappy. The pupils express their views through student leadership groups and they know that their ideas and concerns will be listened to and taken seriously. Children interact well with displays in the entrance hall and around school which affirm that this is a church school. Relationships within the school are good with staff providing excellent role models. The distinctive Christian

character of the school helps the children become responsible citizens and the wide ranging curriculum of St. Paul's encourages a healthy cultural development. The developing links with St. Paul's Church and the No Limits Youth Group enhance the spiritual development of the children.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

The children are very positive about worship and value its place in school life highly. They are able to talk about exactly what they have experienced and gained from worship at St. Paul's. Church-school links are developing well, with the parish priest leading a weekly service in school. Celebrations at major festivals are held in church for the whole school community and these services make a satisfactory impact on the children, giving them a sound and growing understanding of Anglican tradition and practice. Their knowledge of Christian worship is further increased through an interesting and quite recent development of half-termly visits by the 'No Limits' youth group to lead collective worship. The children respond well to worship and enhance their spiritual growth through the use of quiet time for personal reflection although it is developed little by any singing during worship. Their moral development and understanding of Christian values are strengthened well / adequately through the use of themes from Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) material. The importance of worship in school is diminished by the absence of some members of staff although the fact that the Headteacher leads most of the worship gives a powerful message to the children.

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

The head teacher has a strong Christian vision and is now well supported by the governing body and staff. Since the last inspection the governing body has developed greatly and is now committed to helping the head teacher in her vision of promoting the Christian ethos and faith within school. The next step will be for the governors to continue with their role as 'critical friend' of the head as she seeks to further develop policies and practices within school. Governors are rightly proud of the progress made with St. Paul's as a church school. The developing partnership with the church is having a strong impact on the school and the children are now rightly proud of St. Paul's being a church school. Management within school includes a strong and growing pupil voice in the decision making process. The parents' views, as expressed in the Ofsted questionnaire, affirm the facts that they are pleased with the progress made by the head teacher and are given regular opportunities for feedback. Pupils speak proudly of the fact that St. Paul's is a Church school and are fully aware of all that that entails. Pupils do not yet have a part to play in the monitoring and evaluation processes, especially in relation to collective worship. Church links are now good and have the capacity to become even better. This is an area that has seen excellent growth since the last inspection and has the capacity to become even better.

SIAS report March 2010 St. Paul's Constable Lee CE Primary School, Rawtenstall BB4 8HT