

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Saviour's CE Primary School

Chrisp Street
Poplar
London E14 6BB

Previous SIAMS grade: Satisfactory

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: London

Local authority: Tower Hamlets

Dates of inspection: 7 October 2015

Date of last inspection: September 2011

School's unique reference number: 100961

Headteacher: Fanoula Smith

Inspector's name and number: Barbara Chevis 794

School context

St Saviour's is a one form entry Primary school with 241 children on roll, situated in the East End of London. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is well above average. Since September 2012 there have been major changes to the leadership team, including the appointment of a new headteacher. The school is associated with two churches – St Nicholas' and All Saints. Approximately 80% of families attend one of the local churches.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Saviour's as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Christian values are embedded in every aspect of school life meaning that they have a significant impact on the lives of the whole school community.
- Links with the church are outstanding, resulting in a highly developed sense of community.
- Collective worship supports the spiritual development of all who attend through its focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and through Biblical teaching.
- The school is extremely inclusive and this contributes greatly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. Consequently all members of the school community (stakeholders) feel welcome.

Areas to improve

- To moderate work in Religious Education (RE) with a number of local schools to ensure assessments are secure.
- To enhance the RE curriculum through planning visits to churches and other places of worship.

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

Christian values are securely embedded throughout the school with learners constantly relating them to their own lives. The three values of care, respect and inspire, are related to God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and as a result learners have an excellent understanding of this concept and are able to talk about the Trinity with confidence. Parents report that children constantly refer to the values at home and consequently they are impacting positively on the lives of all. Therefore the area for improvement from the previous inspection concerning the articulation of Christian values to all has been fully met. Due to the high focus on the values of respect and care there are excellent relationships and behaviour is outstanding. Through close links with a school in Rwanda, learners know that Christianity is a multi-cultural world faith which may look different in other parts of the world. RE is enjoyed by the vast majority of learners, several of whom state that they particularly like learning about different faiths to improve their understanding of people with differing beliefs. Achievement has improved recently and is now high, with no significant gaps between any groups of learners. This is due to the excellent support given to learners, based on the outstanding Christian ethos. The school has a wide range of strategies in place to encourage good attendance such as certificates and support for families by the Family Liaison Officer. As a result attendance is improving. The value 'inspire' underpins the exciting and stimulating curriculum and consequently SMSC is strong. The whole environment is rich with many artefacts and displays, which make a significant contribution to the outstanding Christian character of the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Pupils enjoy daily worship which is engaging and thought provoking. Pupils sing heartily and say they appreciate this opportunity to praise God. They particularly like the opportunity to reflect and pray as this is when they 'get to speak to God', showing their developing sense of spirituality. There are other opportunities for prayer throughout the day including a reflection time after lunch, led by pupils. This allows for a calm start to the afternoon and refocuses learners on God's love. Pupils enthusiastically engage in responses during worship, which supports their understanding of the Trinity. The high profile of the Bible during worship has led to children's impressive knowledge and understanding of Biblical material. Pupils listen intently during worship, which along with the outstanding teaching of the scriptures, results in attitudes and relationships that are exceptional. There is a cohesive approach to the leadership of worship because everyone participates in planning. All members of the school community are involved in monitoring and evaluating worship. Consequently there is great clarity about the form of worship and expectations are high. Pupils have many opportunities to be actively involved in delivering worship through writing and reading prayers, reading from the Bible and leading responses. They enjoy these responsibilities, and as a result their SMSC development is excellent. Learners attend St Saviour's Church for all major festivals including Candlemas and Harvest. This, together with the regular saying of the Lord's Prayer and receiving of a blessing, ensures pupils have a strong understanding of Anglican traditions and practices.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Standards of attainment in RE are high, and in line with that of other subjects. Progress is equal to and sometimes better than national expectations. Learners enjoy RE lessons and this results in excellent knowledge and understanding of their own faith and that of others. Consequently, when given opportunities to reflect, they are able to relate learning to their own lives and to Christian values. Monitoring and evaluation show that teaching of RE is good. This is validated by the work seen in RE books. Annotated photographs are used to evidence practical work and feedback to learners is generally supportive of learning. The school is using a new scheme of work, Discovery RE, an enquiry based approach and has adapted it to ensure Christianity is at its heart. However, topics are not always enhanced through visits to the church and other places of worship. The scheme has helped to improve teachers' confidence in planning and assessment, thus ensuring that the area for development from the previous inspection has been met. Whilst internal moderation is undertaken to inform assessment, as yet no external moderation with other schools has taken place. Nevertheless, teachers make good use of assessment to inform future planning. The high profile of RE is evident in its inclusion in the School Development Plan, which has a separate action plan for RE. The subject is ably led by an experienced teacher and the deputy headteacher, who have a clear understanding of areas for development. RE is not yet outstanding because the new scheme of work needs to ensure that planning includes visits to places of worship, in order to enhance pupils' understanding and knowledge. Additional moderation of assessments is required to ensure judgements are secure.

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

The Christian vision and values of the school impact upon and are deeply embedded in all that happens in this close school community. All members of the school community are aware of and can articulate the Christian values of the school showing their high profile. These values are seen as central, and careful self-evaluation has ensured that they underpin all aspects of school life, including behaviour. Therefore the focus for development from the previous inspection concerning the rigour of self-evaluation in relation to the positive impact on the pupils has been fully met. The strong governing body holds the school to account for its effectiveness as a church school through providing a high level of challenge and support. Senior leaders and governors ensure that the Christian ethos is at the heart of all decisions made, so that all strengths are recognised and celebrated within a caring Christian community. This has led to an improvement in academic standards and progress. There are exceptional links with All Saints Church from which both the school and the church mutually benefit. For example, Messy Church is brought into the school through the involvement of the Children's and Family Worker, and as a result children's work is displayed both in the school and in the church. There are excellent links with parents who appreciate that their views are listened to and acted upon. They are extremely positive about the school and the impact the Christian values have on their children's lives. Staff are well prepared for future leadership of church schools through access to a wide range of professional development. All staff take opportunities to lead and attend worship and the school is well supported by the Diocese.

