

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### St Paul's CE VA Primary School

Victoria Street  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
Tyne and Wear  
NE4 7JU

#### Diocese: Newcastle

Local authority: Newcastle upon Tyne  
Dates of inspection: 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009  
Date of last inspection: 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. 2006  
School's unique reference number: 108502  
Headteacher: Mrs Judith Sword  
Inspector's name and number: Miss Lesley Richardson 394

#### School context

St Paul's is an above average sized Primary school with 264 pupils including the nursery. The area the school serves is ranked amongst the 10% most deprived in England. 33% of pupils are from Muslim families, 2% from Sikh and 2% from Chinese families. 49% of pupils are from African, white British and Eastern European families of unknown faith or none. 12% from African, Phillipino and Iraqi Christian families and 2% from white British Christian families.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Paul's as a Church of England school are good with outstanding features.**

St Paul's is a totally inclusive, vibrant, energetic community where all faiths and cultures are welcomed and become part of the school family. The ethos is based on the belief that "the Christian faith teaches that all individuals have an unquestionable and equal right to be educated and that each person is to be valued as a unique individual." All within the school community live out this strong Christian ethos based on Bible values.

#### Established strengths

- The outstanding Christian leadership of the headteacher and governors.
- The behaviour and attitude of the pupils who are excellent ambassadors for the school.
- The wholly integrated multi cultural and multi faith community based on Bible values that ensures the school is a very successful example of how society in 21<sup>st</sup> century should function.
- Good standards in self evaluation..

#### Focus for development

- Increase children's involvement in preparation, presentation and evaluation of Collective Worship.
- Further develop assessment systems in RE and re visit possible inclusion of studying another religion in Key Stage 2.

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

The ethos of St Paul's which is based on Bible values permeates the whole curriculum and every aspect of school life. The whole community live together as a family of many cultures and faiths learning from each other about their similarities and differences. All pupils are accepted and feel safe and secure "it doesn't matter what colour you are or what faith you have friends all get along." Children talk freely about their own beliefs and the Bible values on which the school is based "you're naughty, angry, stop, think about what told in past and don't want to go that way want to follow Jesus." Spiritual development is identified in all areas of curriculum planning and is important to whole ethos and all actions. RE displays and Christian messages are present throughout the whole school. Biblical quotes are related to

behaviour and attitudes. One display on 'How Jesus changed lives' reflects how we can change our own lives and react to challenge. Pupils' experiences as Junior Wardens allows them to accept responsibilities of good citizens and find ways in which to support and improve their local community. They see themselves as making a difference now and in the future.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**

Collective Worship is well planned by headteacher and staff and follows the pattern of the Christian year. A small number of Muslim children are withdrawn but the majority of Muslim children and all other children are an active part of worship. The focal point used in worship is always connected to the theme. The children are encouraged to think deeply about the Christian message and relate it to their own lives. Pupils experience Collective Worship in a variety of settings led by all staff. This includes whole school, Key Stage and class. Children also apply prayer in classrooms at appropriate times. They are encouraged to bring their own faith experience to the Christian theme – a child described fasting in the Muslim faith when comparing to Lent. A Key Stage 1 class worship on sharing allowed the children to use all their senses and go on a picnic with Jesus to share bread and fishes. The children identified a number of miracles and explained each one. The pupils are very positive about Collective Worship – they talk about the way in which the lessons in Collective Worship are used in their own lives and how it is an important part of the school day.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is good.**

RE is well planned and teaching and learning is good. Assessment is in early stages and needs further development. Children are encouraged to think deeply and good use of questioning produces good understanding of the subject. Teachers have good subject knowledge. Pupils apply learning in RE to their everyday life, "There is a link with your religion when you're a Junior Warden – Jesus tells us to take care of the world not trash it." RE is mainly Christianity with Judaism studied in Key Stage 1. Children learn about other faiths by living with each other, talking to each other and asking questions about Festivals, beliefs and way of life. The children are very knowledgeable about Islam, Judaism and Christianity. The Muslim community support the school in ensuring the pupils learn the correct facts.

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

Headteacher, staff and governors have a very clear Christian vision for the school. They have regular discussions to evaluate the position of the Christian character and to decide further actions. The governors are very active in the school and support through prayer and physical presence. The vicar is also the chair of governors and is a great strength of the school, valued by children, parents and staff. Links with the church are very strong – staff are considered "an extension of the church family." The children visit the church and are invited to a variety of church celebrations and festivals. The headteacher is a member of the PCC and is welcomed to meetings to ensure church and school work together and that school is seen as part of the fellowship of church. Church provides accommodation, transport, staffing and financial support to ensure Key Stage 2 children visit Beadnell every year for a day of activities and Bible studies. Parents are a particular strength of the school and are very supportive of the ethos "our children are learning together and are encouraged to think what the scriptures mean and their relevance to day to day life." "They are taught to respect other families and cultures – they are friends and understand other faiths through their life." "This school reflects the local community multicultural and multi faith." Parents enjoy visiting school especially Collective Worship and special services. The parents are strongly supported by the Parent Link Worker who provides advice, personal support and approaches to funding. Staff are excellent role models at all times. There is a weekly prayer meeting held in school for staff and all staff know they are supported and valued by governors both personally and professionally.