

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

### Halewood Church of England Primary Academy

<b>Address</b>	Church Road, Halewood, Liverpool, L26 6LB		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	02/07/2019	<b>Status of school</b>	Academy inspected as VA. Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust.
<b>Diocese</b>	Liverpool	<b>URN</b>	143547

<b>Overall Judgement</b>	<b>How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>Additional Judgements</b>	<b>The impact of collective worship</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<b>The effectiveness of religious education (RE)</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

#### School context

Halewood Church of England Academy is a primary school with 210 pupils on roll. The school has a very low level of religious and cultural diversity and very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is below national averages. During a recent trial of the new OFSTED inspection schedule the school (unofficially) maintained its outstanding grade, awarded in 2008. The school is a leading member of the Liverpool Diocesan Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

#### The school's Christian vision

We serve the community by providing a happy, secure and caring Christian environment where all are valued and respected. 'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.' Prov. 22:6

Where children believe, achieve and succeed.

#### Key findings

- Inspiring Christian leadership keeps this subtly powerful vision at the heart of school life, and every member embraces it.
- Governors and leaders undertake self-evaluation of the school's Christian distinctiveness with great diligence. Academic achievement and social, moral and spiritual maturity are outstanding, and staff have created a rich new curriculum full of colour and initiative.
- Relationships and behaviour are exemplary. All live out the Christian values emerging from the vision, with love and respect shining through every aspect of school life. Everyone is welcomed, accepted and loved, regardless of background or beliefs.
- Religious education (RE) is excellent, with a passionate and dedicated leader. A colleague supports her very well and staff enthusiastically follow. Pupils' progress and spiritual development is therefore excellent.
- Worship is transformational for pupils and staff, with varied leadership including clergy and pupils. The spiritual awareness and respect shown in worship leads to exceptional growth and times of refreshment for the soul.

#### Areas for development

- Pursue the idea of opening the school's 'Easter project' to the local community, so as to build even closer ties, and encourage a better understanding of the Christian belief in the resurrection throughout the school family and beyond.
- Expand and develop key elements of the 'Understanding Christianity' resources within the RE syllabus, to deepen understanding of Christian theology among pupils and staff.

## **How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?**

### **Inspection findings**

Halewood primary academy takes effectiveness to a new level. Indeed, the excellence of the Christian love and care for every single person involved in, or with the school, is exemplary. This makes it a beacon for the local area and diocese, and an example for all Christian schools. From the headteacher, whose own faith shines through in everything he does, to the youngest pupil, all members of this school strive to follow the example of Jesus in their relationships and in everyday life. A member of staff said 'It's a privilege to work here'.

There is a refreshing boldness in the Christian witness of the school. This extends into the academic sphere, with governors and staff putting the school forward as a 'pilot' for the new Ofsted regime for next year. The unofficial verdict from this of 'outstanding in all areas' is no surprise. Monitoring and evaluation is careful, open and rigorous, and standards are extremely high. Achievement in all subjects is outstanding, with SATS scores consistently well above national averages. The school is well aware of its responsibility to share excellent practice, and the headteacher and RE leader are involved locally within the MAT and nationally through the National Leaders in Education (NLE) scheme.

A vibrant new curriculum based on the Christian values of wisdom, knowledge and understanding has been constructed. This includes excellent 'knowledge planners' for each pupil giving families a clear picture of expectations. They also help immeasurably to build further on the already excellent partnerships between home and school. The Special Educational needs and/or Disabilities co-ordinator (SENDCO) and the Learning Mentor ensure that those who might struggle are given loving support and help to achieve. A rich and varied provision of extra-curricular activities, notably in sports and the arts, enhances the pupils' exceptional development in all round maturity.

Areas for development from both the previous SIAMS inspection and the more recent 'Keeping on Track' visit have all been tackled with great care and determination. Monitoring of worship is now thorough and involves all sections of the school family. The impact is evident in the regular additions and modifications to worship style and content, always aimed at making the experience even deeper and better for all. Perhaps most striking is the sensitive and frequent encouragement for the pupils to pray spontaneously at appropriate times. This demonstrates the openness to the spiritual aspects of any area of the curriculum. Big questions that arise are tackled fearlessly and Christian values frequently feature in such discussions.

Pupils are actively encouraged to consider their future hopes and aspirations. They strive to be the very best people possible and each term 'children of excellence' are rewarded and honoured for demonstrating key Christian values. Governors are keen to develop global awareness amongst pupils. They supported a staff member who had a year teaching in Mayotte. This is a French African island near Madagascar, 90% Muslim, and clearly provides invaluable links to a totally different part of our world. Acceptance of and respect for difference is cultivated through this link and also through the school's support for Joel, a sponsored boy in Burkina Faso, Africa. A summary of Year 1 pupils' comments on differences and helping others captures the impact made by these initiatives: 'We should love everyone as Jesus said!' 'Everyone should be welcome and we should be kind, friendly and caring to them.' 'We all deserve to feel wanted.'

Love and care for each other shines out at Halewood. Staff speak enthusiastically about the mutual support given and received from colleagues and leaders, especially in times of illness or difficulty. 'A hug and a smile' are always available as appropriate, and the pupils learn from such clear demonstrations of Christian love. A parent commented that 'They teach love and understanding for all.' This transforms difficult situations and brings peace and security to every pupil in the school. The mental health of the whole school family is seen as a high priority. A parent said, 'You never hear any negativity about others.' Prejudice and discrimination have no place here, because the whole school community lives and breathes Christian values.

Worship is wonderfully varied, sincere and transforming. The pupil 'worship warriors' play key roles in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship. This gives them a remarkably mature approach, full of respect for each other. They take the responsibility very seriously and have inspired other pupils in their worship of God. The

vicar has recently led a Eucharist service in school following careful preparation, so that all understand the significance of Jesus' sacrifice at an age-appropriate level. The impact was clear, and there are plans to keep this as a regular highlight.

Prayer and quiet reflection are key features throughout school life. Spontaneous prayers of thanks and for others are precious and powerful examples of the Christian love that is the life-blood of the school. A parent commented, 'It's great that they can pray together.' This freedom and spiritual maturity is also evident in homes as some parents speak of their children praying for and with their friends. A special prayer garden, one of three prayer spaces in the school grounds, has been created in memory of a victim of the MEN Arena bombing. She had been a member of the school family some years before. This moving tribute is treasured and used for prayer and reflection by the family and by all the pupils.

Members of the Anglican/Methodist church, and of other churches locally, take a valuable part in worship. Indeed the church runs 2 clubs for pupils and students during the week, and the Methodist youth and young families worker runs a weekly club in school. All are very well attended and add significantly to the spiritual growth of the pupils involved. Worship is in turn respectful, exuberant, quiet and exciting. The pupils and staff welcome the daily opportunity to draw near to God. Staff agreed that, as one of them put it succinctly, 'worship lifts you'.

RE is making a huge impact on pupils, and the experienced and passionate leader is constantly searching for even more improvement in provision. Teaching on world faiths is excellent, with 'world faith day' and 'missionary week' together with visits to places of worship. Pupils' knowledge and understanding is impressive, and the impact unmistakable. They are determined to love and accept others 'no matter what'. This place is indeed a beacon of Christian excellence.



**The effectiveness of RE is Excellent**

Teaching and learning is outstanding. The outcomes are of a consistently high, often exceptional quality.

The sensitive questioning, that takes pupils deeper into the meanings and subtleties of a topic, is supported by careful preparation. There is always, however, a refreshing willingness to open up discussions to allow the 'big questions' to be explored. The marking system is constantly encouraging yet challenging when appropriate. Achievement is monitored formally every term to ensure that standards are at least in line with other key areas of the curriculum. The 'Understanding Christianity' resources are not yet fully integrated, but pupils see the subject as exciting, and frequently challenge family at home on various issues of faith. One parent commented of her daughters, 'They use Christian values all the time. Once they told me "We forgive each other"'.

Headteacher	Dave Smith
Inspector's name and number	Mike Graham 286