



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church**



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Mary's Walthamstow Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Brooke Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 9HJ

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Chelmsford

Local authority: Waltham Forest

Dates of inspection: 24 June 2016

Date of last inspection: May 2011

School's unique reference number: 103092

Headteacher: Faye Rider (head of school) Beverley Hall (executive headteacher)

Inspector's name and number: Virginia Corbyn 86

School context

St Mary's Walthamstow primary school is a larger than average primary school. In September 2011, the school was a Church of England voluntary aided primary school, Walthamstow. The proportion of pupils entitled to pupil for whom the school receives extra funding is above the national average as is that for those with special educational needs. 75% of pupils come from a wide variety of backgrounds. A higher than average proportion of these pupils speaks English as an additional language, most are fluent in English. Many pupils come from families who regularly attend church of various denominations. A small proportion of pupils belong to other faiths.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Mary's as a Church of England primary school is outstanding

- A strong and explicit set of Christian values informs everything that is offered in school and this has resulted in high standards for all pupils.
- Collective worship is thought-provoking and prayerful, drawing in all members of the school community.
- Religious education (RE) is very well led and managed and encourages high level thinking and meaningful learning.
- Leaders have a thorough knowledge of their school as a church school in ways which foster a culture of excellence.

Areas to improve

- Create more opportunities for pupils to lead worship so that this becomes a regular part of their religious education. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this through monitoring and evaluation.

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

A clear set of Christian values, based on biblical teaching, informs all that the school does for and within its community. These values are forgiveness, caring, respect, wisdom, equality and truth. Their basis is summed up by a governor as, 'We care, we listen, we think'. These values have driven school improvement resulting in rapid and sustained progress for all pupils. These values are lived out by all stakeholders, including by parents who support their children in articulating and demonstrating these values. We are confident that the school provides a strong and much needed moral and spiritual framework for their children. These values are applied to their learning, their behaviour and their attitudes, talking about 'making wise choices' and 'having a good character'. At all levels are characterised by mutual trust and respect as seen, for example, in the RE lessons in all the classrooms.

within their phase groups by each other. Senior leaders balance high expectations with care which demands a Spiritual development is very well nurtured across the curriculum, where pupils are encouraged to think and which punctuates the daily life of the school. Thoughtful comments by pupils are displayed throughout the rich, across many curriculum areas. RE lessons promote deep thinking through the exploration of many and big questions to them to understand others who may hold different beliefs and come from a variety of cultures. As recommended pupils are fully involved in choosing charities to support so that they can give practical help to others locally, nationally and internationally.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Thoughtful and deep reflection characterise collective worship. Worship is biblical and supports pupils in the importance of Jesus to Christians. One pupil described worship as the time when, 'We listen to God's word at the heart of worship and this has helped to embed them within daily life and experience. They provide the basis that ensures that the school community can apply these values effectively. A wide range of leaders of worship provide which make worship engaging for pupils. The pupils expect to worship through song, by praying and by taking part that day. They participate in a number of ways especially through excellent responses to questions and practical worship including times when festivals are celebrated at the church. Pupils do not regularly take enough of monitoring and evaluating worship is not active enough. Strong clergy support means that worship has an Anglican and practices of the local church. There is an increasing focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit especially church which pupils enjoyed and can remember. Pupils understand why they pray and that there are different respond well to silent prayer, active prayer and prayer through song during worship.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Standards in RE are above age related expectations. The progress of all pupils is rapid in learning about and learning world faiths. Pupils enjoy RE and are challenged by it. A particular strength of the school is that of reflection and learning, including in written work. 'Philosophy for Children' and 'Godly Play' approaches are used to value Pupils are able to compare the practices, beliefs and teachings of different religions with increasing confidence respect the views of others, including those of other faiths and of none. Monitoring of RE by the subject leader the majority of teaching and learning is outstanding. Strengths of lessons visited during the inspection included resulted in thoughtful and articulate responses from the pupils, for example in thinking about the importance Assessment has been improved as recommended in the previous denominational inspection report so that progress that is being made. RE is very well led and managed by the RE subject leader. She has benefitted from has, in turn, helped her to lead training for the staff across both of the federated schools. Expectations in relation consistent across the school. Teachers are well supported by the subject leader and also by their phase group leader a spirituality day and an international day, appropriately enhance the regular RE curriculum offered in school.

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

The executive headteacher, ably supported by the head of school, has set high expectations for the whole community and the whole staff team, they have ensured that every child is valued as 'a person made in God's image and deep attendance is high and exclusions are low because pupils enjoy coming to a place where 'you treat others as you governors and senior leaders are committed to the best outcomes, both academically and personally, for every school ensures that it knows itself well and never stands still. Thus, its Christian vision motivates school improvement individual care offered to their children and about the co-operation with staff in fulfilling this. The on-going programme included increasing pupils' knowledge and understanding of how these values relate to British values. The previous review, including by governors. Statutory requirements for RE and worship are met. The federated improvements in teaching and learning by sharing resources and best practice. The school has excellent links personal and pastoral support offered by the incumbent to pupils, parents and staff has a positive impact on school Support from the diocese has ensured that the development of the school as a church school has been integral by ensuring that strong leadership has been supported at all levels. Within school, all staff members are given expectations of what it means to work in a church school. They are offered on-going support and encouraged to Christian school whatever their starting points.

SIAMS report June 2016 St Mary's Church of England School Brooke Road Walthamstow E17 9HJ