

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Katherine's Church Of England Foundation Primary School

Hilton Road,
Canvey Island,
Essex.
SS89QA

Diocese: Chelmsford

Local authority: Essex

Dates of inspection: Monday 9th January 2012

Date of last inspection: November 2009

School's unique reference number: 115264

Headteacher: Annette Keeney

Inspector's name and number: David Bome 740

School context

St Katherine's C of E School has 235 children on roll, including the children who attend morning sessions in the nursery, and serves the local community of Canvey Island. Most pupils are of White British backgrounds.

Strong links exist with local churches; Church and school share the same premises with Saint Katherine's Church. The majority of children at this oversubscribed school are from a broadly secular or Christian background.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Katherine's Foundation Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

A strong partnership exists between the school, the church and the community. The school makes outstanding provision for promoting the self-confidence and self-awareness of its pupils. Children are confident in their beliefs and how to conduct themselves in a caring and safe environment.

Established strengths

- The application of Christian values to all aspects of everyday life is embedded throughout the school.
- The reflective and supportive environment within which all children feel secure.
- The very good quality and leadership and management at all levels
- The outstanding behaviour of the children and the quality of their supportive relationships

Focus for development

- Develop a focus for the use of the Memory Garden to aid the children's spiritual development; this is to extend opportunities for spiritual development to the outside environment.

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

The school makes outstanding provision for promoting the self-confidence and self-awareness of its pupils. They receive an excellent level of care that enables them to shine academically and to develop the self-esteem that underpins their very positive attitudes to lessons and other activities. This encourages the pupils to be honest about their relationships with each other, to talk readily about occasional conflicts and to be conciliatory in a way that ensures the smooth running of the school. Year 6 Ambassadors support the strong Christian ethos of the school with parents reporting that this permeates throughout the whole school. Reflective areas throughout the school promote its Christian and caring nature. One child commented "When I see the reflective areas, God comes into my head and it makes me smile". The environment inside the school makes a major contribution to the spiritual development of all learners. Many children commented on what God does to help them and that he makes a big difference to them as everyone is kind and looks after each other. Pupils' behaviour is outstanding; their spiritual, moral, social and multicultural development is very good. The atmosphere around the school is positive and relaxed with staff seen as role

models of the core value of respect. Parents are positive about the school and speak of the community working together and of the clear and high expectations and standards. "School is an extension of our home and family life". This reflects the strong contribution that RE makes to the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. This in turn is reflected in the school's strong Christian character which is embedded in the daily life of staff, pupils and parents.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The head, staff and pupils see collective worship as central to the development of the children and it is a very important part of school life, soundly based on Christian values. The planning of collective worship is always thorough and creative, involving a wide variety of stakeholders. Reverend Marion often works alongside children to plan and deliver Eucharist services. Children enjoy the opportunities they have to take part in assemblies, especially saying their own prayers. Worship often inspires the thinking and day to day actions of the whole school community. Children are able to talk confidently about its impact. The youngest children comment "assemblies help us to remember good things to do around school. The older children identify the importance of collective worship in "giving us good messages about how God helps us to lead our lives". Children are involved in evaluating assemblies and identifying their key messages. Core Christian values are evident around the assembly hall and regularly referred to during assemblies. Anglican conventions are embedded throughout assembly and are supported by the fact that the school hall doubles up as a church for members of the local community. Staff lead acts of worship and the school chaplain and ministers from other denominations also support and help make it a more memorable experience. All members of the school community feel included in collective worship and are able to articulate how their understanding is developed through services both in school and in local church services. Through their involvement in Friday morning celebration assemblies the parents comment on the confidence with which the children lead the school in prayer and talk confidently in discussions about Christian values. They are proud that their children have developed such strong values and how their spiritual well-being and understanding influences their lives.

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

The leadership and management of Saint Katherine's Primary School are outstanding. The vision of the headteacher and the strong partnership between all leaders ensures that there is a continuous presence and awareness of Christian values. These are made explicit in the mission statement and aims of the school and embedded through all aspects of school and community life.

The headteacher's clear vision is well supported by the Governing Body. Staff are directly involved in promoting the school's Christian ethos. This is seen in their relationships with parents, who praise the work of the school as a church school. Staff feel valued and involved in the school's development. They work well together as a team, and provide mutual support for each other. This contributes greatly to the happy and caring atmosphere which permeates the school. "Staff show that the love of God is in what they do". Governors are actively involved in promoting the spiritual and personal development of staff. Through placing prayer at the centre of the ongoing life of the school, they support its distinctive Christian character. Governors meetings as well as some parent meetings start with prayer. Parents comment on the confidence with which their children can articulate their beliefs. This is enhanced through the Chair of Governors support in developing opportunities for the children to explore their spiritual understanding in school and as part of helping to develop the children's and school's involvement in local churches and the community. They work in partnership with the community on elements of the School Development Plan for example through the PCC which help develop community involvement and support in many areas of school life.