



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Sale and Davys CE VC Primary School

Twyford Road,
Barrow-on-Trent,
DE73 7HA

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire

Date of inspection: 12.06.14

Date of last inspection: 13.12.08

School's unique reference number: 112799

Headteacher: Sarah Briggs

Inspector's name and number: Mr John Clapham 775

School context

Sale and Davys Church of England Primary School is a small rural school in South Derbyshire, with 113 pupils on roll. The very large majority of pupils come from White British backgrounds. The proportion of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs is below the national average. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is below the national average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Sale and Davys Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

- Well articulated distinctively Christian values are deeply embedded in every aspect of the life of the school, with an inclusive, loving and caring environment where every child is nurtured as a unique child of God, and their needs met exceptionally well.
- The high profile of the school's Christian character has a significant impact on both the academic and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each child.
- The Christian character and values of the school is attributed to children's outstanding behaviour and attitudes, and the quality of relationships between all members of the school community.
- The school is exceptionally well led, and receives strong support from governors, the church and parish, parents and the wider community.

Areas to improve

- Explore active creative opportunities for prayer across the school so as to bring prayer into the core of the school's curriculum, ethos and values.
- Build on the school's initial efforts to make global links with other schools and churches to further develop children's wider global understanding and their understanding of Christianity as a multicultural world faith.

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

The distinctive Christian character of Sale and Davys school is deeply embedded and has a significant impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of each individual child. The high profile given by governors and senior leaders to the school's Christian character clearly informs the ethos, values and decisions that are made, and is reinforced right across the curriculum. As one member of staff explained "People choose our school from the core values that are tangible from when you walk in. Our values make a big difference to everything we do." The impact of the school's Christian values is borne out by the high levels of academic achievement, attendance, and the personal development of children throughout the school, regardless of their ability or background. End of Key Stage data, alongside the school's internal data, shows high levels of progress across all groups of children throughout school. The high standard of children's behaviour, attitudes to learning, and relationships between all members of the school community are strongly influenced by the Christian character and values of the school. Children are happy and settled, feel valued, and value themselves and each other. As a parent observed "Children all encourage each other and support each other. It just comes naturally, it is part and parcel of who they are." All members of the school community express great pride in their school, and all attribute this to the Christian values and character of the school. The strong partnership between the school and parents impacts powerfully on standards and creates a real sense of community. One parent commented "Our school does the best for all individual children because they know every child inside out and backwards." Parents and grandparents are proud of their church school because of the impact that the strong Christian values have on the "whole child". Children work and play together well and show high levels of tolerance, respect and understanding of each other. Recent work across the school by the RE subject leader on developing an enquiry based approach to RE has impacted strongly on children's SMSC development. In both RE lessons observed, an enquiry based approach supported children in asking probing questions that deepened their thinking and understanding. This is making a significant impact on children's spiritual development. Much progress has been made since last inspection to deepen children's understanding of and respect for diverse communities, including a well-planned range of visits to places of worship.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

At Sale and Davys school, great value is placed on the distinctively Christian collective worship. That is truly at the heart of the life of the whole school community. Worship is interactive, inspirational and inclusive. It is central to the Christian ethos and values of the school and its impact can be clearly discerned in all aspects of relationships and school life. At the act of worship observed, children were engaged, demonstrated positive attitudes to learning and contributed enthusiastically. They showed tangible interest and reverence for the message that was made relevant and applicable to their lives. Children are deepening their understanding of God through a clear focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Children value the opportunity to reflect and develop a personal spirituality through a wide range of experiences. Acts of worship are held in church for key Christian celebrations. These are exceptionally well attended, with standing room only, and are much valued by children, parents, staff and parishioners. A school prayer tree is used weekly, alongside daily opportunities for children to contribute confidently and sensitively to prayer in worship. This has helped children understand the value of personal prayer and reflection as part of their own spiritual journey. Worship themes are well planned, with input from many members of the school community. Christian values run through these themes, with clear practical applications for the children's lives. The use of simple liturgy, and an observance of the Christian calendar is giving the children a deepening understanding of the wealth of Anglican tradition and practice. Teachers and teaching assistants fully participate in worship with the children. A clear structure of greeting, engaging, responding and sending works well to challenge and engage the children to live out what they learn. Children right across school have opportunity to plan and lead on these aspects of worship, and well as choosing music and songs.

Many opportunities are taken to involve the whole school community in the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship, including children rating their experience through buttons in a jar, and regular monitoring by foundation governors. Feedback provides insight into how worship influences the life of the school and leads directly to significant improvement. Conversations with children, parents and staff during the inspection exemplified the positive impact that worship is having on their thinking and day today actions.

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

Sale and Davys school is exceptionally well led. The head teacher, staff and governors consistently articulate, live out and promote a distinctively Christian vision for the school. As the headteacher explained “As Christians in school, we are role models”. As a result of this, distinctively Christian values impact on the attitudes, aspirations and achievements of the whole school community. One parent observed that “This is not lip service, our values are all followed through.” Exemplary relationships across all ages show the key role that Christian values play within school. As one governor pointed out “Our Christian ethos underpins everything we do”. The school and church work in close partnership, with both enriched by the other. Joint events are exceptionally well attended, and parishioners offer practical support to the work of the school. Another strength of the school is the close working relationship with parents, the wider community and the diocese. Everyone feels valued and all live out the Christian values that underpin the school. Sale and Davys school meets the individual needs of every child throughout school with striking impact on both progress and standards and SMSC.

Governors are highly supportive of the school, and hold the senior leadership team to account in a way that impacts positively across the whole life of the school. They take an active role in supporting the head teacher and senior leaders in school monitoring, self-evaluation and strategic planning. This includes observations of lessons and collective worship, work scrutiny, learning walks and regular reviews of the school’s Christian distinctiveness. RE is clearly identified in the School Improvement Plan, and is given the same rigour in terms of monitoring and evaluation as other core subjects. A well planned cycle of school improvement has a marked impact on standards and provision throughout the school. The school has rigorous tracking procedures in place that feed into pupil progress interviews, ensuring that all children achieve to the best of their God-given ability. Through this, all children clearly understand the next steps needed for them to move on in their learning. The leadership of RE and collective worship is given a high priority, which has led to highly effective practice in both areas. Inspection evidence confirms that arrangements for religious education and collective worship meet statutory requirements. Areas for improvement from the last inspection have been fully addressed. The professional development of all staff and governors is planned strategically, building up a strong team well placed to take the school onto its next stage of development. Particular emphasis is placed on succession planning, where all staff are nurtured to fulfill their full potential.

SIAMS report June 2014 Sale and Davys CE VC Primary School, Barrow-on-Trent, DE73 7HA