

Report on the Denominational Inspection
carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 of

St Paul's CE Aided Primary School

Crompton Street
Walkden
Worsley
Manchester
M28 3HP

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Status	Voluntary Aided
Diocese	Manchester
Local Authority	Salford
Type of School	Primary
Age range of pupils	3-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
UPN	105945
Chair of governors	Revd Dr Steven Edwards
Head teacher	Miss Deborah Sandercock

Inspection date	10 th November 2006
Date of previous inspection	9 th and 10 th July 2002

Inspector	Mrs Angela C. Knowles
Inspector number	

Summary Judgement

St Paul's is a good church school with outstanding practice in meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character and ethos, and in the leadership and management of the school.

School context

St Paul's school serves an area comprising of a mixture of private and rented housing approximately half a mile east of Walkden town centre. Most pupils are of white British background which reflects the area surrounding the school. The number of children claiming free school meals is below that in most schools. The school has strong, effective links with the church and community. The school promotes a policy of inclusiveness.

Established strengths

- A strong, effective, caring Christian ethos which permeates all aspects of school life.
- The leadership of the head teacher and governors.
- The links with the church, community and parental support.

Focuses for development

- The continuation of the development of pupils' understanding of living in a multifaith society by developing the links already made with different schools and making ICT links with other contrasting schools.
- To continue to develop the SEAL project work by linking RE, PSHCE and Worship together to enhance each area within the Every Child Matters agenda including spirituality, and to support other schools in this work as a lead school.

St Paul's School is outstanding in meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character.

The Christian ethos in the school is outstanding and permeates every aspect of the school's life from documentation, display and focus areas through to classroom practice. The school is totally committed to and very effective in the development of the whole child within a supportive school community. All stakeholders feel valued and the relationships between staff and pupils are very strong. This leads to pupils feeling secure, happy and confident which enables them to achieve well. The atmosphere within school is orderly and the pupils are extremely polite. The School Council provides an excellent forum for pupils to express their views and share in decision making.

Collective worship has a good effect on the school community.

Worship is central to the life of the school and underpins its Christian character. Daily collective worship is inclusive, well planned and supports spiritual, moral, social and cultural development supported by the school's leading role for the LEA in the use of the materials from the SEAL project. Pupils value the worship particularly the times spent in small groups and class-led worship. During the worship observed there was an atmosphere of excited anticipation as the pupils and parents assembled which was followed by all worshipers becoming interested and involved. The Year 1 children enjoyed leading the worship and did so with confidence and enthusiasm. Worship is very well supported by parents. Themes are planned well in advance and linked to SEAL themes as well as major events in the church calendar. The school's Anglican foundation is supported through well established links with St Paul's Church and the Vicar regularly leads worship. The children gave many examples of this. To enhance spirituality there are also areas within the school where pupils can take time to reflect and pray. The children spoke compassionately about the memorial garden and told me how important this was to them, they also felt the running water in the entrance helped them to think and reflect on the displayed prayers.

The effectiveness of religious education is good.

Religious Education is recognised by governors and staff as being of crucial importance in a Christian school and the subject's status in the school reflects this. The school use the Manchester Diocesan Syllabus intermingled with the SEAL project. Standards of attainment are comparable with those in the core subjects and pupils achieve well. The books reflected the variety of approaches used in the teaching of RE and reflected the pupils' good understanding of the areas covered. Visits to St Paul's church support appropriate topic areas effectively. The monitoring and evaluation of RE, identified as an area for development at the last inspection, has been developed and gives a clear picture of the high quality of provision as well as pupils' progress. The head teacher has provided very effective leadership in this area.

Leadership and management of the school as a church school are outstanding.

The head teacher and governors have provided outstanding leadership of the school, as a church school, supported by a dedicated and committed staff. The leadership of both Worship and Religious Education is enthusiastic, informed and innovative. The school's self-evaluating procedures show the commitment of the Head teacher and Chair of Governors to further develop the spirituality within school. They clearly articulate a Christian vision for the school which is supported and understood by all other members of the school community. There is a high level of co-operation between all staff: both teaching and non-teaching and the parish and community. The Governing body provide effective support and challenge to the head teacher and make significant contributions to the monitoring and evaluations processes.

