



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church**

St. Saviour's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Verulam Avenue,
Walthamstow,
London, E17 8ER.

Previous SIAMS grade: Satisfactory

Current SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Chelmsford

Local authority: Waltham Forest

Date of inspection: 21st May 2015

Date of last inspection: 15th November 2010

School's unique reference number: 103089

Executive Head Teacher: Beverley Hall; Head of School: Faye Rider

Inspector's name and number: John Baker 11

School context

St. Saviour's is a larger than average primary school in the east of London. Pupils come from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and almost half have English as an additional language. The percentage of pupils known to be eligible for extra funding provided for looked after children and pupils eligible for free school meals (known as pupil premium funding) is above the national average. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities is also above average. The school is federated with St Mary's Church of England Primary School and shares an executive head teacher and governing body. St. Saviour's Church is situated close by.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St. Saviour's as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The school's Christian values and character, with their main focus on love, respect and forgiveness, provide a very strong foundation for school life and work.
- Pupils' responses to the school's provision for promoting their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are outstanding. The worship programme and religious education (RE) effectively contribute to this outstanding provision.
- The exceptional leadership of the school provided by the executive headteacher and head of school ensures that the school's distinctive Christian character is central to all it does.

Areas to improve

- In line with the school's RE improvement plan to raise standards further by increasing the percentage of outstanding lessons to at least 70% by reviewing the school's current assessment arrangements in RE in light of changes being introduced in September 2015.

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

Academic standards over the past four years show a rapid rising trend. Pupils of all abilities now leave school aged 11 having made outstanding progress academically and personally across the school. These outcomes are directly driven by the school's mission statement which is 'Inspirational learning for the

children of the 21st century embedded with Christian values'. These values are love, truth, respect, forgiveness, faith, serenity and tenacity and are directly linked to their clear biblical foundation in the life and teaching of Jesus. They were adopted following an extensive consultation with all members of the school's ethnically diverse community – pupils, staff, parents and governors – three years ago. The Christian values, regularly referred to by pupils, staff and governors, are clearly evident through the school's worship and RE programmes as well as in the high quality relationships and outstanding pupil behaviour throughout the school. RE supports the school's Christian ethos at an outstanding level and makes an effective contribution towards helping pupils develop an understanding of Christianity as a world faith alongside an appropriate focus on other faiths, including Judaism and Hinduism. This provides opportunities for pupils of all faiths or none to learn to empathise with and respect religious and cultural diversity. The school's Christian values also contribute directly and significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and well-being which are outstanding. Pupils' progress, personal development and well-being are outstanding, based on the school's underpinning of care for the individual. Pupils' attendance at school has improved since the previous inspection and is now above the national average. This is due to the significant improvements brought about by the school as a church school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is central to the ethos and character of St. Saviour's school. Its impact on pupils' spiritual life and personal development is profound. Worship also impacts positively on staff and parents. The importance of worship to school life is clearly evident through relationships within the school community and with the parish church. Assemblies, which include acts of worship, strongly feature music and celebrate key Christian festivals as well as biblical stories and appropriate foci on the school's Christian values. This enriches pupils' knowledge of the Bible and the importance of key Christian festivals. The worship programme is very carefully planned by members of the school's leadership team, parish priest and members of staff. Pupils also contribute to planning worship and develop a strong understanding of its importance thereby. Anglican traditions of worship are effectively promoted. The school hall has an altar, open Bible, candle, cross and other artefacts on display and a candle is lit during each act of worship. The colours used in church at different times of the Christian year are followed in school worship. For example, during the season of Pentecost a simple display in red is set out for pupils to learn about the coming of the Holy Spirit. This contributes to helping pupils learn about the Trinity. Pupils are regularly involved in the school's daily acts of collective worship, including having a very high presence and involvement in the monthly Mass at St. Saviour's parish church. The whole school attends and at least half of the pupils receive bread and wine (the elements) during the service. This contributes at a very high level to pupils' spiritual development. Prayer is central to worship and at other times and contributes significantly to the school's Christian distinctiveness. Worship is led and managed very effectively by the head of school. Training in aspects of collective worship provision and delivery in a church school is provided for all staff each year. Monitoring of worship is undertaken by one of the foundation governors who reports back to the full governing body. In answer to a question put to a pupil on what he likes best about St. Saviour's school, the reply was: 'We worship God'.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Pupils make outstanding progress in RE during their time at St. Saviour's school. Pupils' high achievement in RE is currently assessed very thoroughly by the teachers at the end of each unit of work. However the school's assessment arrangements in RE are rightly in the process of being reviewed in light of changes to assessment practice more widely. Teachers' expectations are extremely high and pupils, as a consequence, are encouraged and supported to give of their very best. Teaching is consistently good or better, with over half of lessons outstanding. This is in line with other 'core' subjects in school. The school follows the Diocesan scheme in RE, augmented by the local authority's syllabus. Consequently curriculum content focuses appropriately on learning about and learning from Christianity as well as addressing a range of other faiths. Through good or better teaching pupils' spiritual development is powerfully nurtured and nourished during RE lessons. Relationships and behaviour as a consequence are outstanding. Pupils' work and contributions are included in classroom and corridor displays and clearly demonstrate the importance of RE to their lives. In a lesson on Joshua, an Old Testament prophet, one pupil said: 'Joshua put his trust in God and I can put my trust in God...'. *Godly Play*, an approach to

teaching RE using stories from the Bible, is used very successfully. Story sacks, containing RE artefacts, are also used very well to reinforce pupils' learning about religion and from religion. Regular and very effective monitoring of teaching and learning takes place by the school leadership team and RE leader as part of the whole school lesson observation cycle. All staff attend courses in RE provided by the Diocese or within the school. Effective monitoring is carried out by a foundation governor. An effective action plan is prepared by the RE leader each year in order to ensure the school's high standards in RE are continually being developed.

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

The outstanding executive head teacher and head of school work rigorously to ensure the school's mission statement is at the heart of the work of the school. They are strongly supported in this by the foundation and other governors and by the parish priest. The impact of this is evident in the major improvements the school has made since the previous denominational inspection report. All action points from this previous report have been fully addressed. The school's distinctive Christian character and its Christian values provide a clear focus for school improvement and development and for monitoring the school's provision by senior staff and governors. The development of the school's outdoor space and special gardens which support very effectively pupils' spiritual development and a sense of awe and wonder of the beauty of the natural world are examples of this. Foundation governors provide effective and accurate monitoring and evaluation of the school's provision. They are closely involved in drawing up the school's development plan as a church school. The governing body ensures that arrangements for worship and RE meet statutory requirements. The links between St. Saviour's Church and the school are strong, especially through the work of the parish priest and members of the PCC (Parochial Church Council). The governing body's relationships with the school's leadership are excellent, ensuring appropriate challenge and support to the professional leadership of the school. The federation between St. Saviour's school and St. Mary's school has enabled the best practice of both schools to contribute to sustaining and ensuring their continued improvement. Parents are very supportive of the school as a church school. The school has strong relationships with local schools and is keen to strengthen even further its links with local churches.

SIAMS report May 2015. St. Saviour's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Verulam Avenue, Walthamstow, London. E17 8ER