

**BARTON SAINT LAWRENCE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Jepps Avenue  
Barton  
Preston  
PR3 5AS

Diocese: Blackburn

Local authority: Lancashire

Date of inspection: 2/3/10

Date of last inspection: July 2007

School's unique reference number: 119562

Headteacher: Mrs J Bolton

Inspector's name and number: Mr G Yates

SIAS number 430

**School context**

The school is a below average size Church of England Voluntary Aided primary school, but pupil numbers are on the increase. It is situated in a very pleasant semi-rural area in the outskirts of the city of Preston. A below average number of children are eligible for free school meals. The proportion with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is below average. The school has achieved many awards including the Church School distinctiveness award.

**The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Saint Lawrence CE primary school as a Church of England school are outstanding**

Pupils achieve exceedingly well within a distinctively Christian environment. The headteacher has been successful in a very short period of time in building on the school's strengths, thereby ensuring that Christian values are very much at the heart of everything the school does.

**Established strengths**

- Excellent leadership and clarity of vision of the headteacher, who is well supported by her senior management team, staff, governors and vicar.
- The strong and effective partnership between home, school, the local church and the local community.
- The school provides an extremely welcoming Christian community with very happy caring pupils who are outstandingly well behaved.

**Focus for development**

- Carry out plans to formally evaluate the school as a church school in order to celebrate its many successes and to identify any aspects that can be improved even further.

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

The school's Christian character encourages greatly the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils. Pupils feel well cared for and demonstrate a delightful sense of friendship and support which is very visible throughout the school. Pupils feel that they belong to a 'school family' and really appreciate their school as a church school. One pupil commented that 'this is a school that knows God cares about us'. Christian symbolism is used to strengthen the school's church status and its mission is evident through the prospectus and by through its link with the local church and village community. Pupils are

quite happy to talk about their own spirituality and are able to listen and appreciate the views of others. Families come from an increasingly wide area, with a significant number attending the local church. A very supportive relationship exists between the church, the school and its local community, with many fund raising activities that highlight the needs of others in the hearts and minds of the staff and children. For example, pupils set up a car wash enterprise to raise money for their school but when they heard about the lack of resources in a school in Kenya they decided to give half of their proceeds to that school. One pupil commented 'how lucky I am compared to the children that we raised money for in Kenya.' The school has strong partnerships that demonstrate its commitment to eliminate discrimination, valuing diversity and promoting the positive interaction between groups of children, parents and staff. Its learning environments are planned to promote learning at its best.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Acts of worship are of a high quality, and are well planned and organised. The school has been at the forefront of the work done with other schools in developing collaborative planning for collective worship. The school provides daily collective worship for all pupils is central to school life. Christian values promoted in worship are clearly evident when talking to pupils. Links to the parish church are very good. The vicar leads worship including a regular school Eucharist and pupils take part in Church services on many occasions. The school has taken some steps to develop its evaluative procedures to enable it to measure the impact of the provision on pupils of all ages, including asking pupils what their views are. Pupils say they enjoy the school's collective worship. Pupils are very respectful and very attentive when they meet for worship. Christian symbols such as a cross and a bible contribute to an appropriate and reverent atmosphere. The learners are fully involved, singing with great enthusiasm and joining in with the prayers. They also lead class assemblies. The act of collective worship observed was led by the headteacher who successfully used visual aids to develop pupils' understanding of some difficult concepts, emphasising very well Gods' love for everyone. The Lord's Prayer is well known and opportunities for reflection enhance pupils' spiritual development. It is very clear that the impact of collective worship permeates daily life of the school.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding**

Religious education has a very prominent place on the timetable and pupils say they really enjoy lessons. Overall standards are above average with some of the writing pupils' produce of a very high quality. Pupils have a very good understanding of the Christian faith for their age and aptitude and have a reasonable understanding of other world faiths. Good use has been made of parents to talk to pupils about world faiths other than Christianity. Teaching and learning observed during the inspection was outstanding. Teachers make excellent use of questioning to probe pupils' understanding of the topics studied; they have very good subject knowledge and ensure that the work pupils are asked to do is always matched very well to pupils' needs in the mixed age group classes. As a result pupils are keen to offer their ideas and discuss with others. For example, in one lesson focusing on what Jesus was like, a pupil made the comment, 'I feel Jesus is always there to pick you up when you feel down.' The overall quality of work across the school is very good with a portfolio of work being used exceedingly well to demonstrate the range and quality of the work produced. Older pupils talk confidently about what some of the parables Jesus told mean to them. Assessment systems are in place and have recently been revised.

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

The very high commitment of the head teacher and her staff to the school's Christian ethos is clearly demonstrated. She is an excellent role model who works closely and effectively with staff, governors, local schools and the local clergy. The school has a very clear vision and commitment to the school's Christian foundation. The whole school community is fully dedicated to giving each child at St Lawrence the very best start in life, by providing a very safe, secure family environment in which pupils achieve exceedingly well. The well-being of both children and staff is given a high priority in the school. The result is a happy, hardworking, caring and reflective school community firmly grounded on Christian principles. Parents are supportive of the school and pupils are very happy to attend. The school has many informal systems in place to evaluate its effectiveness and is well aware of the need to

bring these evaluations together in a more structured, formalised way. Parents appreciate the fact that the school and church both work hard to help foster the development of their children's faith. The weekly Friday worship to which parents are invited, regular visits from the clergy and regular Eucharist services in church are much looked forward to by parents and pupils. Governors are very supportive of the school and provide robust support for the head teacher; they know their school community well. The governing body actively seek ways of improving the school further and at the time of the inspection major building improvements were underway. The school promotes community cohesion very well but more needs to be done to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the life in multi-cultural Great Britain. The school as a church school has continued to develop since the previous inspection and has addressed exceedingly well the issue with regard to improving the use of assessment data. As a result all members of staff are very aware of the high standards pupils achieve.

SIAS report March 2010, St Lawrence CE Primary School, Barton PR3 5AS