



Name and address of school: St Alban's Church of England Aided Primary School,
St Alban's Road, West Leigh, Havant. PO9 2JX
Type of school: Primary
Status: Voluntary Aided
Diocese: Portsmouth
LA: Hampshire
Dates of inspection: 19th June 2007
Date of last inspection: July 2001
School's Unique reference number: 116362
Name of Headteacher: Mrs Alice Wood
Name of Incumbent/ Chaplain: Fr Paul Smith
Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number: Alan Brown No. 256

Preface

St Alban's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary school is a one form entry school for pupils aged 4-11 with 220 on roll. The school runs breakfast and after school clubs.

School Context

A large minority of pupils attend a Christian place of worship and there are strong links with the local church. The school in partnership with the parish church has recently organised confirmation classes with several pupils being confirmed.

Previous Inspection Details **Progress since the last inspection**

All of the issues noted in the last inspection report have been fully addressed.

Summary Judgement

St Alban's Primary School is an outstanding Church of England school. The Christian foundation of the school is immediately apparent on entry and the Christian ethos underpins all that takes place within the School. The staff are all able to identify the Christian ethos as being the most important reason for the success of the School. The quality of Collective Worship is outstanding, as is Religious Education.

Established Strengths

The Headteacher, staff, and the Governing Body create an outstanding, stimulating and secure school where the religious and spiritual life of the pupils and staff can grow and develop in a friendly, happy and creative environment. The Christian ethos is paramount and there is a vigour, vitality, energy and enthusiasm in the School. Worship and Religious Education are both outstanding as is the School's leadership and management. St Alban's success is built upon its Christian ethos and concern for the personal and spiritual development of pupils.

Focus for Development

- To continue to enhance the outstanding quality of Religious Education through the development of the pupils' self-evaluation.

How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners? Overall Grade 1 Outstanding

The School's character is distinctively and overtly Christian. Outstanding provision is made to meet the spiritual, moral and emotional needs of all learners and the pupils are fully aware that St Alban's is a church school. A feature of the school is the quality of relationships between pupils and staff and between the staff themselves. Pupils speak very highly of the school, of its friendly atmosphere and the friends they make and retain. The pupils interviewed were confident, articulate, listened to each other and respected each other's opinions. They liked and trusted their teachers and the way in which they are taught. Pupils feel valued and affirmed in St Alban's where Christian values are integral to every aspect of school life. Pupils are polite, very well behaved and are instantly ready to help: they respond with ease and confidence in discussion. They enjoy the responsibilities the School encourages them to accept. St Alban's demonstrates how a church school with a strong Christian character can meet the academic, religious and spiritual needs of its pupils and its staff.

How effective is the worshipping experience provided by the school? Overall Grade 1 Outstanding

The opportunities for collective worship at St Alban's School are outstanding. The hall where worship takes place creates an excellent environment for Christian worship. The manner in which records are kept and worship is planned is exemplary. All the pupils enjoyed the acts of collective worship inspected and talked readily and supportively of other occasions. Pupils sang very well indeed and the interaction between those leading worship and the ready and eager response of the pupils demonstrated the enthusiasm they have for worship. The Christian message was clear while remaining inclusive and open. There is a sense of warmth and enjoyment in the air during collective worship. The regular celebration of the Eucharist is an important feature of school life. No pupils are withdrawn from collective worship.

How effective is the religious education? Overall Grade 1 Outstanding

Religious Education is very well resourced with an excellent range of materials to support outstanding teaching across the school. The documentation is also excellent and the standards expected of the pupils are high. RE is clearly a priority subject in the school. The RE subject leader has worked very hard work, and with some success, to ensure teaching is well supported and colleagues have a wide range of materials to help them. Pupils' work is marked carefully and constructively, being encouraging while also identifying strengths and weaknesses. The miracle of the paralysed man in Year 2 and the exercise based on the story extended and challenged the pupils with the calibre of work produced being of the highest quality. Similarly the marriage at Cana with Year 3 was a stimulating and enjoyable lesson, very well taught with pupils responding with great enthusiasm and enjoyment. Pupils work willingly and effectively, responding readily to a variety of tasks with enthusiasm and enjoyment.

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school? Overall Grade 1 Outstanding

The inspirational leadership and aspirations of the Headteacher are shared by the Chaplain, the Governing Body, and her senior management team. The outstanding charismatic leadership is lively, thoughtful, while being relaxed and encouraging, creating a unified and mutually supportive staff. There is a dynamic sense of purpose in the school which allows and encourages staff to express their creativity as teachers while ensuring high educational standards are met. The Chaplain spoke eloquently and purposefully about the role of the School as a means of Christian witness and the manner in which the Christian character of the school enables the church to reach out into the wider community. All staff and governors are fully committed to the improvement of the academic attainment of the pupils and to the belief that the spiritual and personal development of each pupil is paramount. Pupils enjoy coming to school for it is a place where they can grow knowing their concerns and anxieties will be listened to with professional and personal sympathy. The school works to develop maturity and reflection in the pupils. As one Year Six pupil said ' *I like the school very much but I feel ready to move on for greater opportunities*'. Christian values, faith and service, together with a clear educational vision, lie at the heart of St. Alban's. The link with a school in Ghana has been seminal in extending the Christian vision of the school and providing a practical initiative in which all pupils can feel they can participate. St. Alban's is a church school deeply committed to the personal and spiritual development of its pupils and to the wider communities it serves.

Inspection Judgements

The school meets the statutory requirements for Collective Worship	Y
The school meets the statutory requirements for Religious Education	Y

How well does the school, through its distinctive character, meet the needs of all learners? Grade

To what extent do all learners feel valued and special?	1
How well do the school's Christian values impact on learners and enable them to flourish as individuals?	1
How well does the Christian ethos support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners, whether they are Christian, of other faiths and of none?	1
How are Christian values evident in the relationships between staff and learners and between staff?	1
How well is the school environment used to encourage spiritual development?	1

What is the Impact of Collective Worship on the School Community? Grade

How important is worship in the life of the school and how is this demonstrated?	1
How positive are the attitudes to collective worship?	1
To what extent do learners and staff of all faiths derive inspiration and spiritual growth and affirmation from worship?	1
How well does collective worship develop learners' understanding of Anglican faith and practice?	1

How effective is the Religious Education provided by the school? Grade

How high are standards in RE and how well do learners achieve? Why?	1
How effective are learning and teaching in RE?	1
To what extent do learners of all faiths and of none demonstrate a positive attitude towards the subject?	1
How well does RE contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners?	1
To what extent does RE promote the distinctive Christian character of the school together with an understanding of other faiths?	1
How important is RE in the life of the school and how is this demonstrated?	1

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school? Grade

How well do the Headteacher and foundation governors promote a distinctive Christian vision for the school?	1
How effectively do the Headteacher, senior management and governors encourage, monitor and challenge the school to realise this vision?	1
How valued do staff feel and how involved in putting the vision into practice?	1
To what extent are all stakeholders, including learners and their parents, involved in evaluating the school's progress?	1
How effective is the partnership between the school, the church and the local community including parents?	1



Judgement Recording Form (NSJRF)

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School URN: 116362

Date of inspection: 19th June 2007

NS Inspector's Number: 256

Type of Church school: Voluntary Aided

Number of pupils: 220

Phase of education: Primary 4-11

Has Diocesan Quality Assurance been obtained for this report? Yes/No

Rating 1-4

How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church school?	1
How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?	1
What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?	1
How effective is the religious education?	1
How effective are the leadership and management of the school, as a church school?	1
The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship	Yes
The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education *	Yes