



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Matlock All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School	Dimple Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3HX
Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese/Methodist District	Derby
Previous SIAMS inspection grade:	Outstanding
Local authority	Derbyshire
Name of multi-academy trust/ federation	All Saints Federation
Date of inspection	14 October 2016
Date of last inspection	19 September 2011
School's unique reference number	112838
Headteacher	Hazel Henson
Inspector's name and number	Kerry Palmer (60)

School context

Matlock All Saints is a two form entry infant school serving the centre of the county town of Matlock. Most children come from the local neighbourhood. The majority are of White British heritage but diversity is increasing. The proportion considered disadvantaged is below the national average. Levels of special need are average. School leadership has been through many changes since the last inspection, stability being established through collaboration with All Saints Junior School in 2014 and formal federation, with one executive headteacher in 2015. All Saints Church is close by. Father Richard is a long standing friend of the school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Matlock All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- An inspirational, effective and highly motivated Christian headteacher who leads by example so that staff emulate the Christian values that drive the school vision.
- A leadership team who recognise that 'we are All Saints', resulting in individualised provision for the wellbeing and education of each child and achievement that continues to improve.
- The varied experiences of worship, the world-wide church, other faiths and cultures built into the religions education (RE) curriculum which promote understanding and respect.

Areas to improve

- Develop strategies to explicitly highlight the centrality of the teaching and example of Jesus Christ so that the whole school community appreciates what makes a church school Christian.

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

Matlock All Saints Infants successfully fulfils its, 'aspiration to offer children a holistic educational experience rooted in the Christian faith as a family of saints'. The positive impact of Christian values is recognised by all, 'she talks a lot about being kind like Jesus', said a mother. The wellbeing of children and adults alike is a high priority. Effective strategies ensure children feel safe, are happy and work hard. They are driven by Christian perseverance and enthusiasm for learning. Guided by professional and dedicated staff children make very good progress and achievement continues to rise. The progress of disadvantaged children is particularly evident. The curriculum is rich and wide-ranging, catering for varying learning styles and a range of talents. The school's behaviour policy is driven by Christian values of justice and reconciliation. It is committed to promoting equality and tackling discrimination, recently receiving an anti-bullying award from the Local Authority. There are no exclusions and attendance continues to improve, especially that of vulnerable groups. At work and play children are seen to support each other, informally and through buddying schemes. There are well planned opportunities to visit a variety of places of worship and knowledge of the world-wide church. These ensure children have a good understanding of similarities and differences between different faiths and an appreciation of the nature of worship. Children spoke enthusiastically about the visit to a Gurdwara and inner city Derby. The link with Mrs Muckerjees's Christian school in Kolkata have engaged the children. They speak enthusiastically about the teacher exchange visits, their appreciation of how lucky children in Matlock are and their fundraising efforts for the school in India, 'they've not even got pencils!'. This included the collection at the Harvest Festival service. One whole school topic theme each year is RE centred, emphasising its importance. The pupils have a mature grasp of sophisticated Christian concepts, such as heaven combined with comprehensive religious knowledge. Passing some palm leaves on a display, a boy said, 'That's what Jesus walked over at Easter'. This underlines the school's church foundation and the contribution of RE to its Christian character. All staff are being trained in 'Understanding Christianity', an indication of the commitment to RE and deepening pupils' learning.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Inspirational worship employs a range of engaging approaches that embed the school's seven core Christian values in all aspects of school life. It successfully links to children's daily lives and actively promotes social, cultural, moral and spiritual development. One child told their mother about the story of the Good Samaritan, 'It was sad and we should help people in trouble.' Imaginative themes are developed in an appropriate liturgical setting with regular opportunities for children to be involved in leadership. This term Sparkle the swallow has been 'flying around the world' and children discover different Christian crosses wherever he lands. Children particularly enjoy lively worship songs and a range of music such as Taize and samba. They understand that prayer is, 'Talking with God', thinking of thank-you, sorry and ask prayers. They welcome the many opportunities to choose and compose prayers in worship, reflective areas and the classroom. This contributes significantly to children's spiritual development. The focus of worship is carried into the classroom with a value to be explored, creative activities and 'things to find out at home'. 'See what you can discover about Joseph', was an example observed. A group from one class excitedly toured the school taking pictures of a range of crosses. These were to be shared with others exploring the feelings of forgiveness and that, for Christians, the cross as the bridge between heaven and earth. Children are introduced to an age appropriate understanding of the Trinity and the special significance of Jesus. Exploring a dinosaur display with some 'dinosaur eggs', a boy said, 'They can't come alive again, only Jesus can do that!'. Pentecost was celebrated in dance and drama. Regular visits to All Saints Church and other Christian churches promote children's growing appreciation of Anglican tradition. Parish clergy and visiting worship leaders from Matlock Area Schools Trust and 'Open the Book', extend children's appreciation of a range of worship styles and deepen their Biblical knowledge. The church is filled to capacity with parents and friends who join school worship at festival celebrations. It is also visited for curricular activities such as a mock wedding with all the children in role. They also enjoy regular collective worship in school presented by the classes, 'He was so proud sharing his prayer'.

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

The Christian commitment, energy and professional skills of the headteacher have driven rapid development of All Saints Infants as a church school. Particularly since federation in 2015, she has motivated and enthused staff and

governors so that, together, they recognise and appreciate that Christian values are at the heart of what makes the school special. Together they developed a clear Christian vision encapsulated in the motto, 'We are All Saints', beautifully explained in the prospectus. The school's Christian vision and values are modelled by the strong leadership team and all staff. Staff are mutually supportive, recognising that each child is unique and special with God given talents. They cultivate self-belief and foster inclusion with an emphasis on wellbeing, illustrated by a variety of interventions and nurture activities. There has been a development of both formal and informal monitoring activities since the last inspection. This ensures accurate self-assessment and relevant development priorities. For example, they recognise that a shared understanding of the Bible focus of Christian values is not appreciated by many parents. There is a strong emphasis on professional development for all staff driven by a desire for continuous improvement. This includes regular support from the diocese ranging from induction for newly qualified teachers into church school expectations to senior leadership training and sessions for governors looking at 'holding leaders to account'. Strengths are recognised, staff encouraged to take additional responsibility and so, grow as leaders. Governors are very supportive of the Christian developments implemented by school leaders and proud of the school's inclusivity. They play an increasing role in formal monitoring and review of development plans, but there is need for further development. The strong links with the parish are emphasised in Fr. Richard's welcoming letter in the school prospectus. Parents are full of praise for the dedication and approachability of staff. One whose child had moved from another school, 'Could not praise the staff high enough'. They commend the school's values as, 'a good foundation for life', whilst not full appreciating their Christian context. The school more than meets statutory requirements for collective worship and RE and the Church of England's expectations as given in the Statement of Entitlement.

SIAMS report October 2016 Matlock All Saints CE (VC) Infant School, Matlock, DE4 3HX