



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### **St Luke's Church of England (Controlled) Primary School**

Jubilee Road  
Formby  
Liverpool  
L37 2HW

#### **Diocese: Liverpool**

Local authority: Sefton

Dates of inspection: July 2014

Date of last inspection: March 2009

School's unique reference number: 104897

Headteacher: Sharon Cowey

Inspector's name and number: Paul Adnitt 590

#### **School context**

St Luke's Church of England Primary School is a larger than average-sized primary school. The school serves the small town of Formby and its nearby communities. The vast majority of pupils are White British. The proportion of pupils who are supported by pupil premium funding and the proportion of children with special educational needs are lower than the national average.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Luke's C of E Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding**

- The school focuses on Christian values. The distinctive Christian ethos permeates all aspects of school life and has an outstanding impact on pupils' personal development
- Relationships are based on Christian love and care for each individual and are outstanding. The quality of relationships with parents and the parish provides a positive Christian impact in the wider community.
- The headteacher provides outstanding Christian leadership. She ensures that the school's Christian character constantly strives to make a difference to the pupils' academic achievement and spiritual development.
- Daily worship is excellent and vibrant and is central to the life of the school. This quality worship makes a significant impact on pupils' spiritual development
- The quality of the school environment enhances pupils' spiritual and moral development. Interactive worship and Religious Education (RE) displays engage pupils and promote prayer, reflection and spirituality.

### **Areas to improve**

- Ensure that all staff and governors are involved in the Christian school evaluation process. This will enable all school leaders to evaluate effectively the school's Christian character and identify areas for further development.

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

The school's Christian character nourishes, encourages and challenges the spiritual and cultural development of the whole community. The distinctive Christian values of love, faith, respect and compassion are made explicit and are deeply embedded in the daily life of the school. The staff and governors demonstrate these core gospel values by example in the daily life of the school. The quality of relationships between all members of the school community is excellent and this, together with the emphasis on caring for others, makes an exceptional contribution to the pupils' social and moral development. Pupils have positive attitudes to their learning and they know they are valued and respected by staff. All pupils feel safe and special. The pupils are proud of their school and speak confidently about why it is special to them. One pupil commented, 'We always say our prayers. It's important to talk to God. Sometimes we ask him to bless children in our school who are in need'. The distinctive Christian character of the school has a positive impact on the outstanding academic standards and progress achieved at the end of Key Stage 2 and on the pupils' outstanding personal and social development. Older pupils are excellent role models for their younger peers. The school's buddy system is highly effective and ensures that younger pupils feel loved, safe and valued. Parents are very positive about the Christian ethos of the school. 'There is a warmth about the school. Christian values make the difference', remarked one parent. Pupils' behaviour is excellent. Interactive worship and Religious Education (RE) displays in classrooms and central areas engage pupils and promote prayer, reflection and spirituality. Outstanding outdoor facilities, including the Willow Garden, are used imaginatively to stimulate spiritual development and provide quiet sanctuaries. The school has strong links with the church, the local community and involvement in many local initiatives, including the SMILE challenge. This ensures pupils have a growing understanding and awareness of Christianity as a vibrant living faith. Outstanding and imaginative teaching in RE makes a significant contribution to the pupils' spiritual development. Pupils enjoy RE and say it is important to them and the life of their school.

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

Outstanding collective worship is at the heart of school life and all staff and pupils participate with enthusiasm. It is inspirational, inclusive and of the highest standard. The daily act of worship enhances the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican tradition. Pupils show an impressive degree of understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They are confident when discussing their faith and demonstrate significant levels of spiritual maturity. 'The Bible reminds us why Jesus is special and why he is the Son of God', remarked one pupil. Opportunities for reflection and prayer enhance pupils' spiritual awareness. Worship is a valuable experience for everyone in the school family and makes a positive impact on their spiritual development. Christian values are strongly promoted in worship and are clearly understood by the pupils. They enjoy worship and speak enthusiastically about the value of worship in their lives. A member of the school council commented, 'Our worship is really special. We have time to think about what we have done and how we can make things better'. Pupils show respect and enjoy helping to lead elements of worship. They value these opportunities and speak with pride about their contributions. Pupils have opportunities to plan and lead worship through the work of the ethos group. This group of older pupils plans and leads class worship for younger pupils. Collective worship is led by every teacher and they successfully develop pupil interaction, discussion and reflection. The vicar leads whole school worship with great enthusiasm on a regular basis. He is well

liked by the pupils who value his contribution to the life of the school. One pupil commented, 'Rev'd Nicol is important because he tells us stories from the Bible in a fun way. He puts it in a modern way that we understand'. Pupils come into the presence of God respectfully. A large cross on the wall and a worship table provide a clear and positive focus. The major festivals are celebrated in church and governors and parents are very supportive. Monitoring, planning and evaluating are outstanding and include contributions from pupils, staff and governors. This has contributed significantly to the development of outstanding, child centred worship.

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

The headteacher leads by example and her personal Christian values permeate the life of the school. This is reflected in the outstanding worship and Christian distinctiveness of the school. The headteacher has a strong and clear Christian vision for the school and is well supported in this by the senior leadership team and the governing body. The evaluation of the school as a church school is thorough and accurate. It is completed by the headteacher and RE subject leader. All members of staff and governors now need to be involved in this important process so that they can contribute fully to the evaluation and development of the Christian character of the school. Continuing professional development of all staff and governors is a high priority within the school. This includes continuing professional support from the diocese. Parents appreciate the distinctive Christian nature of the school and speak highly of it. They understand that the Christian aspects of the school, such as the clear Christian values, are important to their children's moral and spiritual development. Pupils' views are taken seriously and they have a leading role in the decision making process of the school through their active involvement in the school council and eco council. There are excellent links with the local parish church, and the local community. This contributes fully to school life and helps pupils understand the involvement of the church in the local and wider community.

SIAMS report July 2014 St Luke's C of E (Controlled) Primary School Formby L37 2HW