



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Sir John Offley CE (VC) Primary School

Izaak Walton way

Madeley

Cheshire CW3 9PJ

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese:

Local authority: Staffordshire

Date of inspection: 10th March 2016

Date of last inspection: 18th March 2011

School's unique reference number: 124289

Headteacher: Miss Sally-Anne Ward

Inspector's name and number: Mr Mark Cooper 425

School context

Sir John Offley is situated within the rural village of Madeley, close to All Saints Church. The school has 154 pupils aged from 3 to 11 years. The large majority of pupils are of White British heritage. The school draws most pupils from the village of Madeley, but some also travel in from surrounding areas because parents actively want a Church school education for their children.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Sir John Offley as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The strong leadership and vision of the headteacher and governors.
- The excellent team work and fellowship between all who work in this school.
- The outstanding behaviour of pupils and the relationships they have with each other and their teachers.
- The proclamation of Christian values across the school and the positive impact they have on pupils.

Areas to improve

- Provide more opportunities for pupils to explore their personal spirituality through prayer.
- Build on the opportunities pupils have to lead worship.
- Continue to develop and enhance the evaluative procedures that monitor the impact of the school's distinctiveness as a church school.

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

The school's strength is exemplified in the strong relationships that pupils have with each other and their teachers. There is a real sense of this school being a family. The school truly lives out its motto, "everyone matters, everyday counts." As a result, behaviour is outstanding and the

academic progress of pupils is very good. There are very few instances of bullying, and when pupils were asked about it, they could not even recall any. Parents speak very highly of the school. They talked about how the school really cares for and nurtures their children, and felt that the school was welcoming and supportive, “*everyone knows everyone else*” and, “*nothing is too much trouble*” was their view. They felt the school was fully inclusive. One parent said that she didn’t worry about her child because she knew that they were, “*safe and secure*”, and another that she was, “*thrilled with the school.*” They could clearly put this down to the school being a “*Christian school*” firmly grounded in its Christian values. Pupils talked openly and with some clarity about the core Christian values of love, forgiveness and aspiration and the impact they felt they had on their lives within school. One pupil talked about how forgiveness helped them to, “*forgive others and not hold a grudge*”, and another that the value of love helped them to “*respect others.*” Pupils talked about the opportunities they have to help others and the various charity events they are involved in at school. They could clearly link these to the ‘Golden Rule’, “*treat others as you would want to be treated.*” This demonstrated that pupils could clearly apply their Christian knowledge and understanding to other situations. Pupils talked clearly about their ‘STARS’ (safety, trust, achievement, respect and sharing) values. They believed that these helped them to think of and help others, in school. The development of pupils’ SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) aspects is clearly evident across the school through displays and quiet areas both within classrooms, and outside where they have a designated reflection area. The TT (Thinking & Talking) room greatly enhances this and provides pupils with a safe place to talk about their thoughts and feelings. A weekly ‘drop in’ Christian club allows pupils to explore the Christian faith and the importance of Jesus in their lives. This encourages their spiritual growth. The teaching of RE (religious education) helps pupils to understand the importance of the life and teaching of Jesus and the beliefs and values of other faiths. Pupils are able to talk about these with good levels of understanding. In particular they talked about Jesus as the Son of God, his death on the cross and the importance of forgiveness. Pupils’ understanding of the world and current events is very good and they clearly understand the importance of prayer for those who are in need.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Pupils enjoy worship at school and look forward to it. They talk about worship positively and recognise the value that it has on their lives. They are keen to get involved and say they would like more opportunities to do so. Worship is a mixture of whole school, class and key stage worship. It is well organised and pupils are consulted on worship themes. It has a clear focus on the life and teachings of Jesus and the Trinity. Pupils can make connections between the core Christian values of love, forgiveness and aspiration with the three Persons of the Trinity. They talk confidently about the connection between the core value of love with God as, “*a loving Father who has no favourites*”; and forgiveness with the person of Jesus. However, pupils are less confident about the connection between ‘aspiration’ and the Holy Spirit. They enjoy the different Bible stories they hear in worship and talk about these enthusiastically. They can see how these teachings contribute towards the positive relationships within school and the importance of helping others. They clearly understand the value of prayer, particularly when praying for others who are less fortunate than themselves; however they are less confident in talking about how prayer can have a positive effect on their own daily lives. Pupils talked very positively about class worship and liked the fact that it helped them to talk about, and reflect upon, current national and world events. Pupils enjoy opportunities to explore the Christian faith through the ‘Kerygma’ bus, the wedding event and the visit from the Bishop of Stafford. The relationship between the school and All Saints Church is strong. The vicar is a foundation governor and is a regular visitor to school. He leads worship, which pupils really enjoy and value. The celebration of key festivals, Christmas, Easter and Harvest take place at All Saints church and pupils talk about their active participation in these. Year 6 have an opportunity to explore the meaning of the Eucharist through the ‘Fish Project’. However, their understanding of the centrality of the Eucharist within the Christian faith needs further exploration. The school now needs to enrich its acts of school collective worship by providing further opportunities for

pupils to lead and take more ownership.

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

The strength of this school is in the commitment and dedication of the headteacher and the way she seeks the very best for all the pupils in her care. She has a clear Christian vision for the school and is resolute in demonstrating this. She has the full support of a very committed and hardworking governing body, assistant headteacher and teaching staff. All work together as a cohesive team for the good of the pupils. Parents speak very highly of the headteacher and all those who work with their children. The welfare and progress of pupils both academically and spiritually are central to all who teach and care for them. Pupils talk very positively about their school. They enjoy coming to school and say that their teachers are, *“kind and helpful”* and *“look out for them.”* Parents confirm this by saying that the school lives out its motto and that its teachers, *“will go the extra mile to help their children, nothing is too much trouble.”* Pupils are consulted and involved in the decision making processes in school through the school council, and their opinion concerning aspects of the school’s Christian vision is taken into account. The foundation governors know their school well. They work tirelessly to fulfil the school’s vision. They celebrate its successes, whilst ensuring that any weaknesses are challenged and addressed. They believe that the headteacher has had a dramatic impact on the school over the past ten years, resulting in the Christian ethos becoming the, *“very backbone of the school.”* Teaching staff and governors have benefited from diocesan support, training and advice and believe this has helped to develop and strengthen the school’s distinctive Christian vision. Some evaluation of the school as a Church of England school has taken place, but this now needs further formal development by the whole school community.

SIAMS report 10th March 2016, St John Offley CE (VC) Primary School, Madeley, CW3 9PJ