

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Rimrose Hope Church of England Primary School

Sandy Road
Seaforth
Liverpool
L21 1AD

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese / Methodist District	Liverpool
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Local authority	Sefton
Date of inspection	10 November 2016
Date of last inspection	December 2011
Type of school and unique reference number	Voluntary Controlled 134371
Headteacher	Lawrence Crilly
Inspector's name and number	Gail Fullbrook 530

School context

Rimrose Hope School is a slightly larger than average school serving the urban community of Seaforth. The school is in an area of high deprivation and 49% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. This is significantly higher than the national average. The majority of pupils are of White British origin with just 1.7% of pupils speaking English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils with a disability or special educational need is above the national average as is the proportion of pupils with a statement of special educational need or an education health care plan.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Rimrose Hope school as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Rimrose Hope is an inclusive school where Christian values provide the foundation for all aspects of school life. As a result, pupils are given the support they need to achieve well and make good progress.
- The school's core Christian values are widely known and understood. They have impact on the pupils' excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning.
- Worship is inspirational and supports the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. Opportunities for prayer and praise beyond worship are valued by pupils and have impact on their well-being and personal development.
- Partnerships with parents and the local community are strong and mutually supportive. This is because the school recognises the importance of the pupils and their families to God.

Areas to improve

- Review the procedures in place for the evaluation and strategic planning of the school as a church school to ensure that governors have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- Strengthen pupils' knowledge of Biblical teaching to bring a greater depth to their understanding of the core Christian values.

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

At Rimrose Hope the wellbeing of pupils and their families is central to the school's distinctively Christian ethos. The vision statement, 'faith in our children – the hope for the future', drives all aspects of school life and results in the exemplary care and support offered to pupils and their families. Parents and community members readily attribute the excellence of the school's commitment to pupils to its Christian character. As a result, attitudes to learning are good, pupils achieve well and make very good progress. Practical help is given to parents to minimise absences from school.

Parents of all faiths and none value the school's faith foundation. They say that the school is welcoming, that staff are approachable and that the school is enriched by the people within it. Pupils readily talk about the school's core Christian values. Their impact is evident in the daily life of the school. The Christian message of the values is strengthened through the many scriptural verses around the school. Christian values have a significant impact on the pupils' behaviour and on SMSC development. Understanding of the values is developed in an innovative and exciting way. Pupils are awarded badges in response to homework challenges associated with each value. The badges are worn with pride and pupils are keen to share the actions that led to each award. Parents welcome the inclusion on the school newsletter of information about each Christian value and the Biblical teaching that underpins them. Many relish the opportunity this gives for them to support their child's development.

Pupils demonstrate a strong sense of social responsibility. They are keen to share examples of the ways in which they support their community and national and international appeals. A wide range of opportunities such as residential visits, bag packing at a local supermarket and opportunities to sing at community events contribute to the pupils SMSC development. Community workers recognise the distinctiveness of the school's Christian foundation. They refer to the extra warmth it brings to the school and the sense of calmness amongst the pupils. The school has links with a school in Sierra Leone and is working to become a Rights Respecting School. This supports understanding of the global nature of Christianity and contributes to the deep respect pupils have for their peers of different faiths and cultures.

Relationships are strong and effective. Occasions when staff support community events and deliver Christmas food parcels to families facing difficult times are seen as an outward indication of the Christian character of the school. Pupils are respectful of their peers of other faiths and enjoy learning from them in religious education (RE) lessons.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship time is highly valued at Rimrose Hope and it is widely acknowledged as being a very special part of the day. Pupils recount times when their understanding of Christian teaching has been deepened and when they have been challenged to take action. One pupil, when speaking of an act of worship about endurance, talked of gaining confidence in her talents and of making the most of every opportunity. Another talked of the importance of being a good friend like the friends of the paralysed man who took him to Jesus to be healed.

Pupils take an active role in leading worship. The prestigious role of being a worship warrior, whereby with friends you plan and lead worship, is acknowledged as being an important school responsibility. All pupils play an active role in worship through times of reflection and the responses they are encouraged to make.

Prayer is central to the life of the school and pupils pray regularly during the school day. Opportunities for prayer and reflection are offered in worship through word and silence. Spiritually meaningful songs, sung and signed by the pupils, deepen worship and encourage a spiritual response. Prayer stations in and around the school are well used and provide opportunities for quiet and personal prayer. The well-placed prayer station in the school grounds provides a focus for prayer and for times of remembrance. Pupils of other faiths talk of the importance of taking time for personal reflection whilst their Christian peers pray.

Pupils recognise that the three candles lit during worship represent God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Worship plans follow the church year and develop understanding of the school's core Christian vision and values. Worship is distinctively Christian and has a Biblical foundation. The wide range of Biblical verses to be found around the school support understanding of the ways in which scripture can enrich people's lives. Pupils hear a wide range of Biblical stories through the year and have an excellent understanding of the key messages of the Christmas and Easter story. However, their recall of the stories of Jesus is not as well developed.

The wide range of worship leaders, including teachers, local community members and the worship warriors, is much appreciated by the pupils. The evaluation of worship is purposeful and involves many members of the school community including pupils, parents and staff. It supports key staff in future worship planning and provides purposeful feedback on pupils' understanding of Christian teaching and of their enjoyment of worship.

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

The Christian vision of this happy and highly effective school is clearly articulated by staff, parents, governors and community members. School leaders speak with enthusiasm of the importance of following Jesus and of doing 'what's best for the children'. A well-developed understanding of Christian values underpins all decisions made. Consequently, all pupils, including those with special educational needs or who are disadvantaged, make very good progress and feel secure. The pastoral care of pupils and their families is exceptional. Parents and community members share many examples of times when the school gives support well beyond that which might be expected. They explicitly link this support with the school's teaching about Christian values.

Good procedures guide senior leaders in reviewing and planning for the school as a church school. The school has an accurate understanding of current successes and has identified appropriate areas for future development. Governors are well informed about all aspects of school life. However, their involvement as critical friends in holding the school to account for its distinctiveness as a church school is not always sufficiently rigorous. The focus points for development identified at inspection in 2011 have been fully addressed. This has resulted in a clear commitment to pupils' spiritual growth and to developing their understanding of the nature of God and of Jesus.

The school has good links with the diocese, the church partnership and with local Christian communities. The commitment to the school of local Christian youth workers and the Bootle Team Ministry enrich the life of the school for pupils and adults. This in turn supports the distinctiveness of the school as a church school. Parents feel welcome and valued. They talk of feeling confident when approaching staff and have confidence that any concerns or worries will be quickly and thoroughly addressed.

Teachers are provided with professional development to support their work within a church school. The RE and worship leaders and nominated governors benefit from regular diocesan training. The school knows its staff well and provides good opportunities for future church school leaders to develop professionally. RE and collective worship are well resourced and meet statutory requirements.