

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Havergal Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Lane

Shareshill

Wolverhampton. WV10 7LE

Diocese: Lichfield

Local authority: Staffordshire

Dates of inspection: 20th November 2012

Date of last inspection: 16th October 2008

School's unique reference number: 124273

Headteacher: Mrs C Watson

Inspector's name: Mr A R Gilroy. Inspector's number: 007

School context

Havergal CE Controlled Primary is a popular, small school with 75% of the pupils living outside the official catchment area. Most pupils are from a white British background and the number entitled to free school meals is below the national average. It also has below average numbers of pupils with identified special needs. Since the last inspection, there has been a change in clergy serving the parish and a significant number of staff have joined the school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Havergal Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

Havergal is an outstanding church school where relationships are founded on explicitly Christian values. The articulate pupils are well motivated and succeed well in school. It is a welcoming, Christian community which offers its pupils the best opportunity to grow and develop through the formative years of their education.

Established strengths

- The headteacher, staff and governors have a clear, shared Christian vision and high expectations of the whole school community.
- Everyone is valued, nurtured and challenged to do their best and to succeed, whatever their background.
- The Christian distinctiveness which is having an excellent impact on the learners who greatly enjoy participating fully in the life of the school.
- Strong links between the school, the parish and the local community foster excellent community cohesion.

Focus for development

- Involve all stakeholders in regularly monitoring the impact of collective worship on the pupils.
- Provide pupils with regular opportunity to take responsibility for the planning and delivery of the daily collective worship.

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

The pupils are proud of their school and its close links with the church. The Christian values of love, respect, generosity of spirit, care and forgiveness are core to all that the school does. As a result, pupils work and play together very well both in school and on the playground, showing excellent behaviour and a real care and concern for one another's welfare. Forgiveness and reconciliation underpin the strong relationships that support the pupils in taking responsibility for their actions, resulting in a sense of fairness and mutual respect. The pupils feel valued and special, safe and secure. They are encouraged to make decisions to help and support each other. As one pupil said, *'Everyone is really kind, that's why we really like coming to this school, it is great!'* The pupils are encouraged to think about and discuss the important matters of life and know how to access help in their deliberations. Social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is excellent. The school has very strong links with the local community which has contributed to the very good cohesion of the school. Further afield, a link with a school in Kenya has been initiated and there are numerous school visits to groups of different faiths within the locality. These actions are widening the pupils horizons and contributing well

to their understanding of their place in the world. There is a relaxed, orderly atmosphere around and within the school buildings and pupils are clearly enthusiastic about their work and enjoy play. There is a very effective school council which gives the pupils an opportunity to make a real contribution to the school's decision making process. There are excellent focused display areas in each classroom and in communal areas which highlight the status of the school as a church school. They include displays and photographs showing how these young people are being developed, reaching out and making a difference in their own lives in school and to the lives of others. The vast majority of children are sure that being a church school is important and when asked about Jesus, one shared, *'He is really special, he is with you always'*. They are encouraged to care for others through their charitable giving where the school has a good record of fund-raising for a range of causes which is often led by the pupils. The well maintained grounds are attractively laid out. Parents speak highly of the school, the care and concern shown to their children and the very professional way in which staff work. They say the school works well with the community. As one parent said, *'My children learn respect, and a real care and concern for others'*. There are many clubs and activities in which the pupils participate. *'Havergal is a fantastic school'*, was a child's comment that illustrates the pupils' pride in the school where they are developing very effectively as citizens of the future.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is central to the life of the school and is greatly enjoyed by the pupils who value coming together to hear about and worship God. The pupils engage very well, listening carefully, singing with enthusiasm, participating appropriately and responsively in prayer. There is good pupil involvement in day to day worship and they enjoy taking part in the presentation of worship to their peers and their parents on special occasions. They have the maturity to take a greater part in both planning and presenting worship on a regular basis. The pupils have a good recall of the worship stories and many can also relate how the messages taught have influenced their thinking. A wide range of appropriate topics are covered and all the staff take part and lead worship either as a whole school or in the individual classes, indicating the importance placed on this aspect of school life and their commitment to it. The planning is very good and the presentation of worship is carefully monitored. The pupils have an excellent knowledge of a range of Christian symbols and artefacts indicating their importance to this Anglican school. This is enhanced by the regular visits to church for services with the support of the clergy. Pupils celebrate all the major Christian festivals and are involved in planning and presenting acts of worship in the parish church. This enables them to have ownership of their worship and is helpful in developing their understanding of Christian worship and practice. The vicar and other members of the clergy are regularly in school, leading services and being involved in the life of the school, which has helped develop the excellent links between the two communities. Prayer is important in the life of the school. Pupils know the Lord's Prayer and understand and can interpret its meaning well. Many say that they pray at home, which demonstrates the impact worship is having on their thoughts and actions

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

The vision of the headteacher, which is central to the life of the school, is having an excellent impact on the school and its pupils. Christian values enrich and frame attitudes and behaviour throughout the school community. Exemplary relationships throughout the school show the key role that Christian values play in the community. Everyone feels valued and all model the school ethos. There is a real sense of togetherness in the school, where everyone works hard to ensure the pupils reach their potential, equipping them with skills for life. All are clear about the importance of the Christian vision of this church school as is indicated in the responses from parents to the regular questionnaires. Governors are conscientious and provide challenge to the school, as well as giving time, encouragement and support in all aspects of school life. They provide an efficient framework for the staff. The governors' involvement in formally evaluating the impact on the pupils is seen as an area for development. The areas for development identified in the last inspection have been addressed. There is a very strong and mutually supportive bond between the school and the parish. The school also makes good use of the support offered by the diocese. The parents spoken to during the inspection highlighted the importance of the school's Christian foundation for all of them. They appreciate the special caring atmosphere where *'every child really matters'* to every member of staff.