

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Holly Hill Methodist/Church of England Infant and Nursery School

New Street
Rubery
Rednal
Birmingham
B45 0EU

Diocese: Birmingham

Local authority: Birmingham

Date of inspection: 11 November 2011

Date of last inspection: 27 February 2007

School's unique reference number:

Headteacher: Mrs Christine Parker

Incumbent: Revd Richard Tebbs

Methodist Minister: Revd Mary Shannahan

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Lizzie McWhirter MA 244

School context

Holly Hill is proud of its dual foundation with its strong desire to serve the needs of the young children and families it serves in a challenging area of social deprivation on the Birmingham and Worcestershire border. St Christopher's Church meets in the school buildings.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Holly Hill as a Methodist/Church of England school are outstanding

Here is a place where everyone is welcomed and encouraged to achieve. These young pupils are given excellent opportunities and experiences to nurture faith. Holly Hill is an excellent church school because its relationships are founded on Christian values ensuring everyone is included and belongs.

Established strengths

- The strong sense of community which exists based on Christian values
- The importance of prayer within the life of the school
- The quality of experiences offered to pupils in collective worship and religious education [RE], nurturing their spiritual development
- The excellent links with the Anglican and Methodist churches through the clergy and foundation governors

Focus for development

- Embed the monitoring and evaluation of RE
- Establish a gifted and talented register for RE
- Engage all the governors in the evaluation of collective worship

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

Holly Hill provides an excellent learning environment where its young pupils are happy to come to school and where they are treated as individuals. This inclusive, cohesive community proudly displays Christian values and exemplary relationships which underpin all policy and practice. Pupils speak of how they feel safe at school and some aspire to be teachers because of the good role models they encounter, giving a sense of Christian vocation within the church's mission. They say 'the teachers tell us what to do and how to learn'. Parents speak highly of this school which they say their children would like to be 'open seven days a week'. They value the community feeling and 'can't praise this school enough for what they've done'. The school is seen to value the widest range of achievement and pupils feel able to make a positive contribution. They enjoy giving to charity through which

they experience the Christian values of service and gratitude. Their sense of global awareness is supported through the link with Burundi, notably the selling of Burundi bears to help build a school in Africa. Bright, prominent displays greatly enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Children engage enthusiastically with the quiet reflection spaces outside, such as the uplifting spiritual garden.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

High quality prayerful and meaningful worship permeates school life and practice. Pupils clearly enjoy worshipping together. These young pupils already take their turn in leading worship, making a significant difference to their spiritual development. They are able to make links between worship and their own lives, saying that the story of Jesus calming the storm helps them to think of 'some ways to make our school more peaceful'. Worship takes place in the school hall which transforms into St Christopher's Church, used by the community. Worship sometimes takes place outside, such as in the spiritual garden for the Armistice Day reflection. Pupils wrote and read their own prayers on poppy head Remembrance crosses which were placed with a wreath in the garden at the culmination of the two minutes silence. Their prayers reflect their prayerful concerns, praying for 'the soldiers who died and who survived' saying 'thank you for the soldiers who are risking their lives to bring peace to our land'. Major festivals in the church year are celebrated. Year 2 leavers attend the diocesan service at the Cathedral with their parents, widening their experience of being part of the Anglican family of church schools. Parents attend services in school or church so the worshipping life of the school is supported by all. Pupils complete their own child friendly worship evaluations, showing how the school has moved on since the previous inspection. They welcome the opportunity to contribute more fully by enabling the teachers and governors to know their thoughts and reflections on worship by 'telling them your really good ideas' or by writing their ideas down and 'putting them in the Bible box' in their class prayer corners. Foundation governors are keen to take pupil thoughts on board at governor meetings, including all governors in evaluation so worship is continually improving in integrity and quality.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Excellence and enjoyment are evident in this high profile subject which is well led and supported and greatly supports pupils' spiritual development. RE lessons consistently demonstrate high quality teaching and learning, resulting in good standards and progress over time, in line with other core subjects. An effective system of tracking and monitoring is in place and the school recognises the need to embed this in order to inform planning and show achievement in RE. Portfolios of levelled work demonstrate how the school has moved on since the last inspection. Exemplary relationships ensure pupils collaborate well, think independently and show respect to teachers and others. They can clearly articulate the life of Christ as well as the great stories of faith in the Jewish, Hindu and Sikh traditions. They make links between these stories and the right way to live. Lessons are underpinned by Christian values. An excellent example is when children look at gifts, they learn how to give a helping hand in terms of money and time, such as in preparing boxes for Operation Christmas Child. They know what it is like to be a modern day Good Samaritan, 'sending some things in boxes to other people who don't have as many things as we have'. Some pupils can tell the story of John Wesley and recite his Rule, acknowledging the Christian foundation of this school. Plans to take forward a gifted and talented register for RE ensures potential for such young children to be realised.

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

The distinctive Christian vision is clearly evident and effectively promoted by the headteacher, staff, clergy and governors so that the school's joint Methodist and Anglican foundation is celebrated amongst the whole school community. The rector is a welcome and regular visitor to school and the newly appointed Methodist minister has already begun to build relationships with the school community. Everyone models the school vision to ensure the development of the whole child, equipping each one with skills for life. Excellent relationships show the key role that Christian values and 'taught humanity' have in the life of the school. Parents praise the 'good foundation and starting block for life which Holly Hill

provides'. 'Parents find staff approachable and supportive, saying 'they always try to help, whatever problems you have; it's a bit of pureness in the middle of a housing estate'. Some parents speak of the wish for a straight through church school primary education for their children. Pupils are very clear that they belong to a church school. Their work is displayed in church and there are plans for pupils to write in the parish magazine. Foundation governors take an active role in the life of the school, especially in their systematic monitoring and evaluation of the school as a church school. All staff have opportunities for leadership and responsibility and the head has built up a strong senior management team around her. Holly Hill values support from the Anglican diocese and the Methodist circuit so everyone is involved in upholding the school's dual foundation. Holly Hill is truly inclusive, shining as a beacon in the area it serves, modelling and contributing to community cohesion.

SIAS report November 2011 Holly Hill Methodist/Church of England Infant and Nursery school, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham B45 0EU