



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



 The Methodist Church

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Scarisbrick, St Mark's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Southport Road
Scarisbrick
Lancashire
L40 9RE

Diocese: Liverpool

Local authority: Lancashire

Dates of inspection: 14 February 2014

Date of last inspection: October 2008

School's unique reference number: 119410

Headteacher: Marilyn Freeman

Inspector's name and number: Paul Adnitt NS 590

School context

Scarisbrick St Mark's is a smaller than average primary school and serves a large rural area, broadly of an average social and economic background. The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals is below the national average and the number of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium is low. The number of pupils with Special Educational Needs has fallen over the last four years and is well below the national average but the percentage of pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs is above the national average. The majority of pupils are from a white British background. There are 3 mixed age classes.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Scarisbrick St Mark's 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 based on Christian love and care for each individual 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 makes a difference to the pupils' academic achievement, spiritual development and well being
- Planning and evaluation on the part of leaders and governors is extremely effective. It is based on accurate monitoring and feedback gathered from across the school community. All stakeholders feel they have a valuable part to play in the life of the school.
- 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.

Areas to improve

- Further develop pupils' involvement in the planning and leading of worship in order to deepen their spiritual understanding.

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 distinctively Christian values of love, peace, trust, responsibility, equality, generosity and forgiveness are made explicit and are deeply embedded in the daily life of the school. The staff and governors expound these core gospel values by example in the daily life of the school. Staff work hard to inspire and motivate pupils in order to raise their self-confidence. 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, 'Our Christian values help us to live together and show us how to behave towards each other.' 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' excellent personal and social development. Older pupils are excellent role models for their younger peers. From an early age pupils learn how to value each other and their surroundings. Parents are very positive about the Christian ethos of the school. One parent remarked, 'The school's Christian values do impact on the ways pupils behave and deal with difficulties.' Pupils' behaviour is excellent. Interactive worship and Religious Education (RE) displays, both in classrooms and central areas, engage pupils and promote prayer, reflection and spirituality. Good and imaginative teaching in RE contributes well to the pupils' spiritual development. Pupils enjoy RE and say it is important to them and the life of the 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 and inclusive and of the highest standard. The daily act of worship enhances the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith including their awareness of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pupils were confident when discussing their faith and demonstrated significant levels of spiritual maturity. 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, 'If you are worried you can pray to God and God will help you. We respect God and Jesus.' Pupils show respect and enjoy leading elements of worship. They value these opportunities and speak with pride about their contributions. They now need to be provided with further opportunities to plan and lead worship. Worship also enables pupils to recognise their responsibilities towards others and to reflect on community and personal values. Teachers successfully develop pupil interaction, discussion and reflection. Collective worship is led by every teacher and the vicar leads whole school worship on a regular basis. She is well liked by the pupils who value her contribution to the life of the school. One pupil commented, 'If we have any problems she will help and will pray with us. She is very important to us.' Pupils come into the presence of God respectfully. A large cross on the wall and a worship table provide a clear and positive focus. Monitoring, planning and evaluating are outstanding and include contributions from pupils, staff and governors to inform future school worship. Biblical themes and the importance of confirmation and the Eucharist are included in

the planning cycle.

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

Leadership and management are both of excellent quality and strongly promote the school's Christian character and ethos. Parents and pupils speak highly of the school. The headteacher is a dedicated Christian leader who takes all possible opportunities to promote Scarisbrick St Mark's as a church school. Leadership of the school is positive and is rooted in strong and effective Christian values. Governors have a strong commitment to the school's Christian foundation. Continuing professional development of all staff and governors is a high priority within the school. All members of the school family make a clear and highly effective contribution to church school self-evaluation. It is used effectively to clarify the present position of St Mark's as a distinctive and caring church school. The document clearly outlines further development points to enable the school to grow as a vibrant Christian community. The development of the school's distinctive Christian character is a key component in the school's improvement planning. The governors are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities and are highly supportive of the school's leadership and Christian vision. The successful school council plays an important role in involving all pupils in the growing life of the school. Parents feel that the school listens to their views and that problems are dealt with quickly and sensitively. They know that their opinions are valued. The focus for development from the previous report has been addressed thoroughly. The partnerships that exist between the school, the church and the local community are excellent. As a result pastoral care, family values and community spirit are highly effective.

SIAMS report February 2014 Scarisbrick St Marks Scarisbrick Lancashire L40 9RE