



## Section 50 Inspection of Church in Wales Schools Report Proforma

### All Saints VA school

School Lane,

Gresford LL12 8RW

Diocese: St Asaph

Local authority: Wrexham

Date of Inspection: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Date of last inspection: November 2012

School's unique reference number: 665/3338

Headteacher: Mr Richard Hatwood B.A. QTS. NPQH.

Inspector's name: Mr Gareth Williams M.Ed.

### School context

All Saints is a voluntary aided Church-in-Wales primary school situated in the village of Gresford near Wrexham. The school caters for boys and girls aged 3-11 years. The school has 354 pupils on roll including 46 part time nursery children. At present 7.0% of pupils are registered for free school meals. There are currently 3% pupils with English as an Additional Language. Staff and pupil turnover remains very small. At present the school does not have any service children on roll. There are 2.56% of pupils identified as having Additional Learning Needs. Several ethnic minorities are represented in the form of Indian, Chinese, Malayan and Polish children. Attendance for the last academic year was 94.98%. At this moment in time no child has been withdrawn from Collective Worship. One significant event has been the untimely death of a year-5 pupil.

### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of All Saints as a Church in Wales school

The school incorporates its church school status naturally into all aspects of school life, enjoying good links with the church and community it serves. There is a strong ethos of love and care within the school. The children value and enjoy their membership of the school. Several members of the clergy visit the school on a regular basis to conduct school services and advise on religious issues. Pupils are curious, questioning and reflective about the world they live in, spiritual issues and moral challenges. They are given many opportunities to contribute to their learning environment and the wider world. All this is done with reflection and appreciation of the world God has created.

### Established strengths

- The excellent behaviour and attitude of the children.
- The Christian leadership of the Headteacher
- The high standard of Collective Worship
- The caring, inclusive ethos of the school and the high standard of ALN provision.
- The way all adults support the children of All Saints to secure their full potential.
- The Implementation, planning, recording and delivery of R V E.

### Recommendations

- Consider opportunities to link Expressive Arts, Health and Wellbeing and the Natural World to support pupils to the wonder and beauty of the natural world.
- Worship Leaders need to evaluate collective worship alongside Governor representatives to discover what works well / and what does not.
- Revisit the curriculum as it develops to ensure that teaching of RVE remains objective, critical and pluralistic.
- Ensure the Diocese support the school through allocation of a new Bishop's Visitor.
- Collaborate with the Local Authority to determine how to overcome the barriers identified with admission and planning for school places.

## **The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is meeting the needs of all learners including the contribution of Religion, values and ethics to the Christian Character of the school**

In All Saints Christian fellowship is evident once you cross the threshold and is at the core of all its work. The school's Christian character guarantees a solid foundation for the personal, academic, and spiritual wellbeing of all pupils. The children display a positive approach to learning which is reflected in the standards achieved. It is evident that pupils achieve well throughout the school regardless of gender and free school meal status. The local authority, and agencies, ensure that pupils with additional needs are identified and intervention and liaison with specialists ensure that expected levels of progress are met, particularly for those who are vulnerable. Pupils' attendance is good and the behaviour of the children is excellent.

All Saints school has a genuine Christian caring ethos permeating throughout the school, which has a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of staff and pupils alike, providing a good basis for teaching and learning to take place. When questioned the children found great difficulty in finding anything that they would like to change about the school. Christian signs, symbols and the school's values are clearly displayed throughout the school to remind pupils of the commitment to Christianity and to provoke reflection of biblical stories and key biblical figures.

The local clergy visit the school regularly to lead Collective Worship. The school are anxious to welcome their new vicar and look forward to working closely with them. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect quietly and to contribute confidently in Collective Worship sessions, by using their own prayers and sharing experiences. All school staff lead by example and place an appropriate emphasis on the moral development of each child within the school. There are several children's groups within All Saints that make valuable contributions to the life and work of the school. Pupils are very willing to accept responsibility by volunteering for tasks or by being a member of one of the many children's focus groups.

Pupils show respect for a variety of beliefs, attitudes and other cultural and social traditions, and have a good understanding of equal opportunities and fairness. Pupils' sense of values are heightened by raising their awareness of what is acceptable and unacceptable, and by promoting strong values, emphasizing respect, honesty and courtesy towards others. The school empowers all children to make decisions for themselves and to take responsibility by preparing them to become the citizens of the future.

Relationships with parents are very well established. The school has an open-door policy, which is highly valued by the parents. They are invited to approach staff with any issues which are dealt with promptly and efficiently. The school engages with parents via twitter social media and a website. Focused meetings with teachers are offered each term. The school also opens its doors to the local community thus enabling the building and Church House to be available for use.

Using a variety of teaching styles and approaches, staff ensure that all pupils are engaged in RVE lessons and are able to reach their full potential. All pupils display a positive attitude towards RVE. They listen attentively dramatize, discuss and comment on stories and celebrations from the bible and other cultures. Pupils make progress in line with their age and ability. Since the implementation of the new RVE curriculum expectations within RVE are as high as for other subjects.

RVE lessons are delivered as part of a regular weekly timetable. The time allocation meets the statutory requirements. Provision is monitored by the Headteacher, Curriculum leader together with the support of the RVE Link Governor who scrutinise the implementation of RVE and Collective Worship across the school to inform future planning.

## **The impact of collective worship on the school community**

Collective Worship at All Saints is distinctly Christian and central to the life of the school community. There is daily whole school worship. All the staff lead worship on a regular basis, enabling the children to experience individual styles of delivery. The children who are Collective Worship Leaders also have opportunities to plan and lead worship. Class and whole school worship also provide the children with good examples to model. Collective Worship provides an opportunity for pupils to come together as a Christian family within the school, to hear Bible narratives and stories with Christian values, which enable the children to develop an understanding of spirituality. The caring attitude of the older children on the yard is an excellent example of these Christian values in action.

The Christian ethos of the school is reflected in the provision of a focus point with Christian symbols and appropriate music to signify the beginning of the act of worship. Each act of worship includes the Lord's Prayer, Anglican Responses, The Grace, and a period of quiet reflection. Two candles are lit at the beginning of the service to signify the presence of God to the pupils. Planning, delivering and evaluating worship is seen as important in school. The "Open the Book" group visit the school regularly recreating many bible stories through the medium of drama.

Collective Worship teaches the pupils to model their behaviour on Christian values and teachings from Biblical stories, and to relate these to everyday life. Whilst most acts of worship are rooted in the Christian faith, the school also include celebrations of other cultures and faiths. Parents are encouraged to reinforce the school's Christian Values at home and take part in any home-school activities.

The school aims to ensure that the acts of Collective Worship are interactive as and when appropriate. Questions are asked and pupils are encouraged to participate, either through verbal contributions, reading prayers and stories, film clips, playing instruments and taking time to reflect on the theme of Collective Worship. Welsh and English songs and hymns are used in Collective Worship to praise God. The children look forward to Collective Worship and love to participate at all levels.

Pupils are invited to join in prayers during Collective Worship, and the children who are leaders take class services. During the time for prayer a quiet reflection is observed for the pupils to reflect on the key messages from the Collective Worship and have their own quiet time with God.

Anglican responses are used throughout Collective Worship. Biblical stories and teachings are a key feature of worship. These stories are related to issues and situations the pupils can identify with, so that they have up to date meaning and relevance to their lives. Christian symbols are used throughout and the meaning and relevance discussed with the pupils throughout the year.

All staff and governors are aware of the statutory requirements for Collective Worship. These are met in full. The school allocates twenty minutes daily for Collective Worship. The Collective Worship coordinator ensures that monitoring systems are in place. Parents' rights are clearly outlined in the school prospectus, which states that they have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship.

## **The effectiveness of religion, values and ethics**

Standards in RVE are as high as the core subjects throughout the school and there are examples of excellent work on display. All Saints' delivers a broad and balanced curriculum, lessons are vibrant, exciting and stimulate children's reflection and wonderment. Staff ensure that there is continuity and progression throughout the school and pupils have a wide breadth of knowledge and understanding. When questioned the children were able to recall many biblical stories, displaying an understanding of underlying moral messages. Literacy, Numeracy, and ICT skills are evident across the curriculum.

Teachers utilise a variety of effective teaching and learning strategies. Appropriate and varied learning styles are planned to engage all pupils and give each individual every chance of success. Different learning styles are considered when planning lessons. Differentiation is clear in all planning and is evident during learning walks.

Clear learning objectives and success criteria are set at the start of each lesson throughout the school. This gives a focus and meaning to the pupils. As a result, pupils use these to ensure that they understand what is asked of them and it helps them to become more independent learners. Formative assessment focuses on the success criteria of the lesson and pupil targets. Providing feedback in such a way makes pupils aware that their work is valued and important.

Marking provides the pupils with regular feedback relating to their specific targets and the success criteria of the lesson. Next steps feedback are given for the pupils to follow, allowing pupils to have the opportunity respond so that the next steps can be the focus for development.

Long and medium term planning have recently been reviewed throughout the school. It is now based on a thematic approach with a two-year cycle. Planning is thorough and incorporates a variety of teaching and learning styles suitable for the pupils, ensuring they are engaged and make the most of the learning opportunities offered to them. A number of children who were observed during the Inspection were able to verbally communicate their thoughts and understanding of the topic under discussion and to commit these on paper.

Good use is made of a variety of resources, including the use of the local environment "Cynefin" enhancing the curriculum to ensure engagement for the pupils and providing them with support where appropriate. The school has many artefacts for teaching Christianity and other faiths and these are a useful resource for classes to enhance learning.

The school is continually developing its self-evaluation processes to ensure that standards are raised together with the school's Christian character. All Saints' regularly reviews RVE and Collective Worship as part of a regular cycle. All staff and Governors are aware of the statutory requirements for RVE and Collective Worship. These are met in full.

Governors manage the budget prudently and the Headteacher sources and accesses grants. An example of this would be the grants obtained from the Archbishop Rice Jones Fund and the Wrexham Parochial Education Trust. All Governors, staff and vicar are aware of the statutory requirements for Collective Worship. These are met in full. The school allows twenty minutes daily for Collective Worship. All teachers and support staff regularly attend RVE training provided by the Diocese, as and when appropriate to the needs of the school.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership of the school as a church school**

The headteacher, who has been in post for five years, has been able to ensure that the whole community shares his Christian vision. It is evident that he regards his role as a vocation, which is part of his ministry and calling. All the Governing Body, including Foundation Governors are fully aware of supporting the Christian character of the school.

The Governing Body and staff work as a team in promoting the ethos and vision of the school. This ensures that the Christian vision of the school is communicated and modelled throughout the school day to the whole school community. Parents recognise this as a strong feature of the school. The school's mission statement and vision are underpinned by Christian principles and clearly highlighted around the school. The school's website, social media, twitter, texting and the prospectus are used to promote the Christian ethos.

The school, church and diocese maintain close links. During special times of the Christian year pupils take part and lead services in church. This shows the importance of the Christian calendar to the pupils and involves them in the family of the church. The reflection areas within the school also improve the children's awareness of the close link with the church and the Christian faith.

Collective Worship is evaluated by the Headteacher and Link Governor with input from Worship Leaders. Since pupils are involved in evaluating Collective Worship it ensures that they have a vested interest in making worship a worthwhile experience, especially when they see that their ideas are being used.

Provision for RVE is monitored by the Headteacher and Curriculum leader, with the support of the RVE Link Governor, who scrutinise the implementation of RVE across the school to inform future planning.

The SMT have a clear vision for the school, and staff are involved in the strategic planning process ensuring that the school provides the best education for its pupils.

The school recognises the close partnership it has with parents in supporting and developing children. Parents' meetings are planned termly, and they are encouraged to share and discuss any worries and concerns they may have about their children. Parents attend termly pupil meetings, an annual report meeting with the class teacher and open days throughout the year. Open mornings and afternoons are held for Nursery and Reception children enabling parents to come and see their child's work.

The school has many children's groups that provide valuable input into whole school decision making. These include the School Council, Eco group, Criw Cymraeg, Worship / Ethos Leaders, Food Buddies, Happiness Heroes, Super Ambassadors, Digital Champions, Active Travel Crew.

The Governing Body acts as a critical friend to the Headteacher and regularly challenge the vision and reports on performance data. This provides accountability and challenge ensuring that the best performance from staff and pupils is obtained. Governors are regularly invited into school to take part in subject reviews. These have included book scrutinies, learning walks and discussions about performance data. Governors have first-hand experience of the school and are able to be effective in their strategic role. The school as a Voluntary Aided entity has been able to access a significant amount of money in grant aid, to further enhance the educational experience for all its children.

<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for religion, values and ethics (where inspected)</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Religion, values and ethics is objective, critical and pluralistic</b>	<b>Yes</b>