



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

All Saints Academy Darfield	School Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S73 9EU
Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese/Methodist District	Sheffield
Previous SIAMS inspection grade:	Good
Local authority	Barnsley
Name of multi-academy trust/ federation	St Mary's Academy Trust
Date/s of inspection	19 October 2016
Date of last inspection	March 2011
School's unique reference number	138234
Headteacher	Courtenay Walls
Inspector's name and number	Angela Knowles 497

School context

All Saints Darfield converted to being an academy on 1st September 2012. The school is part St Mary's Academy Trust. Ofsted judged the school in June 2014 as good. The school is smaller than the average primary school. The large majority of children speak English as their first language. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for pupil premium funding is above average. The school has been through a period of change since the last inspection. The Deputy Head teacher was appointed Head teacher in 2011. The school governance changed recently and the school is now governed by St Mary's Trust Board.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of All Saints Academy Darfield as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The inspiring Christian leadership of the head teacher, enhanced by the experienced and highly effective curriculum leadership of the RE and Worship Co-ordinator.
- The opportunities for prayer and quality of worship make a valuable contribution to the school's distinctiveness and to the spiritual life of the school family.
- Explicitly articulated and deeply embedded Christian values of the school underpin its excellent relationships with all the school family.
- Well established and effective links between church and school.

Areas to improve

- Further enhance children's knowledge about other cultures and faiths by developing first hand learning opportunities and experiences.
- Enhance spirituality throughout the school community by developing the strategic role the children have in the planning of worship so that they contribute to and evaluate its impact.
- Develop the parents' group to have a strategic link between school and the trust, supporting the leadership team so that the whole school family has a role in maintaining and developing further the Christian values and principles of the school.

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

At All Saints Academy, Christian values are central to every aspect of school life. These values underpin the school's motto, 'Building Futures, Shaping Lives'. School strives to ensure every child is excited to come to school each day and leave having enjoyed their learning, and been challenged to acquire new skills within a safe and secure environment which promotes the values and teaching of Christ. The school's strong Christian character is reflected in displays which emphasise the importance of prayer and of Bible teaching. Each classroom has its own focus area including a cross, a Bible and opportunities to reflect on thought provoking quotes. The focus areas support children's spiritual development extremely well, reminding them of the presence of God in their school. There are many opportunities both in each classroom and around school for children and staff to share their prayers and concerns. Children, staff and parents articulate Christian values consistently and demonstrate them through very positive relationships and attitudes to worship and learning. Parents spoke of the way in which the schools explicit Christian values drew them to choose the school for their children. Relationships between all members of the school family are solid and there is a tangible sense of Christian love and care for each other. Children are encouraged to follow the example of Christ in their behaviour, relationships and attitude. Children behave well and are polite and respectful. There are clear expectations which the children articulate clearly and feel are effective and appropriate. As a result, children are safe, ready and able to learn. They appreciate the opportunity to say thank you and well done to others by putting their thoughts onto paper. These are then used during worship, each week one is selected to be displayed on the dove of peace in the entrance. Children begin school working generally below expectation and make good progress. Children in vulnerable groups are well supported and in many cases make excellent progress helping to close any gaps between them and their peers. School aims to support children who struggle at an early stage hence trying to minimise any gaps widening. The crucial link between attendance and achievement is strongly promoted by school and is celebrated within the context of the school's Christian ethos. RE is an important area of the curriculum which is taught well. Children know what their targets are and they use self-assessment as well as the teachers' informative marking. Children learn about different faiths and cultures. They recognise that similarities far outweigh differences but have few opportunities to have first-hand experiences of these. Pupils say they enjoy coming to school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship plays a central role in school life whether it takes place in school or in the church for special services throughout the year. The impact on the children and adults is obvious as many reflect on how a particular act of worship has made a difference to their thinking or helped them at a particular point in their lives. The worship observed was led by the 'Open Book' team who are formed from members of the church. They have regular meetings as a team to plan and evaluate and link with the worship coordinator in school. The worship observed reflected the school's focus on the Bible and teaching of Christ being the base to which Christian Values are linked. The dramatized story of David and Goliath caught the children's attention and they all responded as directed with enthusiasm. The children sang extremely well and prayer time was reflective and ended with everyone saying the school prayer together. Worship is carefully planned and evaluated by the worship coordinator and other members of the school family. This has ensured the focus for development from the last inspection was fully met. To develop this further the recently formed children's worship committee intend to be more involved in the decision making, delivery and evaluation of worship. Prayer is central to the life of the school. Children spoke of the response used by Rev David at the beginning of worship and valued other prayers used throughout the day including the Lord's Prayer and the school prayer. They appreciated the other opportunities they have to pray when they want to. Post-it prayers in the classrooms and the well-used prayer tree in the corridor are examples of this. Pink ribbons are being used this week on the tree as they are fund raising for breast cancer. Doing things for others is important to the children and they enjoyed taking out harvest gifts to members of their community. Many recipients sent responses to the children reflecting how thoughtfulness and kindness made them feel better. The children spoke knowledgeably about the Church's year pointing out the significance of

the colour around the fortnightly Bible passage displayed all around school. The also showed me how they spoke of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit using sign language.

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

The head teacher's clear Christian vision is shared by the whole school family and lived out in action. He is supported in maintaining and developing this vision by the very experienced and effective coordinator of RE and Worship. This vision is strong and clearly articulated based on the Christian model of servanthood dedicated to meeting the ever-changing needs of the community. The spiritual dimension of school is a priority and central to everything. The school's daily life is based on worship and prayer. Leaders take their responsibility to develop thoughtful aspirational adults very seriously, basing all their developments firmly around the school's Christian values. The RE and Worship coordinator uses her evaluations and regular monitoring of both to plan for future development. School leaders have accessed regular diocesan support and training for themselves and all staff. The school has become an academy since the last inspection. The governance of the school has changed over time and to some extent is still evolving. The school no longer has its own governing body but has representation on the trust board. The school intend to ensure parents are still fully involved and consulted by forming a parents' council. The leadership and trust work closely together to ensure school performance improves further. The vicar and other members of the church are known by the children. This ensures strong and valuable links between school and church. During Christian festivals worship usually takes place in the church. Parent attendance has increased considerably since the last inspection and the parents spoken to value these opportunities to be involved in worship. A great many special activities have been organised by the church for the children and Messy Church is seen as an important link. The church building is also used as a learning resource to support the RE curriculum. The high level of pastoral care is rooted in Christian love and has a significant impact on the whole school family as seen in the school's response to need. Pupils have opportunities for leadership responsibilities in school including being members of the worship committee.

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