



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### **Pott Shrigley Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Shrigley Road  
Pott Shrigley  
SK10 5RT

**Previous SIAMS grade: Good**

**Current inspection grade: Outstanding**

**Diocese: Chester**

Local authority: Cheshire East

Dates of inspection: 9 June 2016

Date of last inspection: March 2011

School's unique reference number: 111462

Headteacher: Melanie Walker

Inspector's name and number: Jean Forward (625)

#### **School context**

Pott Shrigley is a very small rural primary school. The children are of White British heritage. The proportion of children with special educational needs is above the national average. The proportion of children known to be eligible for the pupil premium is below the national average. The school is in a hard federation with Bollington St. John's C of E Primary School and works very closely with its partner. Children make good progress by the end of Key Stage 2, often from low starting points. The headteacher has been in post since September 2015.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Pott Shrigley as a Church of England school are outstanding**

- The exceptionally strong Christian leadership of the headteacher and her vision for the development of the school ensure that the Christian ethos is central to daily life.
- The school is extremely successful in creating a loving and caring Christian environment which has a direct influence on children's well-being and positive attitude to learning.
- Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development is excellent and is rooted in the school's Christian ethos and its approach to inclusivity. Children become increasingly confident and self-assured in their understanding of faith and their social skills.
- The governing body provides highly effective support and challenge through commitment and expertise. This results in strong Christian leadership and self-evaluation.

#### **Areas to improve**

- Involve all members of the school community in the evaluation of worship so that they are able to contribute to the Christian vision and enrichment of children's worship experiences.
- Make explicit reference to the Trinity in worship so that children have a deeper understanding of the qualities of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

A strong commitment to its Christian ethos and the development of the whole child underpin the school's work. Expectations and encouragement are directly linked to the Christian life experienced by all. Children talk confidently about the importance of the school's core Christian values in terms of the way they behave towards everyone. Positive relationships across the school and church community are rooted in a Christ-centred approach and are a key element in the school's success. Children's SMSC development is excellent as a result of the focused Christian ethos and the emphasis on nurturing every individual and on supporting families. Consequently, children demonstrate high levels of self-esteem, awareness of others and the need to persevere. All members of the community know they are valued and the ethos of Christian trust and respect is clearly evident. Children are extremely courteous, friendly and responsible. They enjoy being members of the ethos group and school council where they are able to develop their ideas and strengthen a sense of Christian commitment. They are able to share concerns with their teachers knowing that these will be addressed in a sensitive way. Parents comment that their children are happy and enthusiastic about learning and school life. They say that their children develop positive attitudes to the world around them and that they apply Christian values to everyday life. Parents ascribe this to the distinctive Christian ethos. The school has a strong commitment to Christian stewardship, supporting a range of charities including WaterAid, Railway Children and Samaritans Purse. Children speak of the importance of showing generosity and compassion to those in need. Displays and Christian signs and symbols emphasise the school's distinctiveness and prompt the children's spiritual awareness extremely well. Children value the classroom reflection areas and say these help them to think and pray. The school's commitment to widening children's knowledge of world faiths contributes well to cultural knowledge and positive attitudes. The children's understanding of global citizenship is broadened through links with schools in London and Uganda and through an urban residential visit with other small church schools. The school has extremely strong and mutually beneficial links with the parish church which give children an understanding of the wider Christian community. Attendance is close to the national average. The school's Christian care for and commitment to every child secure these positive results.

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

Worship is central to the life of the school. Planning incorporates themes based on the school's core values, the Bible and major Christian festivals. Worship enables children of all ages to understand how the teaching of Jesus guides Christians in their daily lives. The children enjoy worship and engage extremely well with questions which explore values and beliefs. They understand the importance of silence and reflection and are encouraged to write their own prayers or to pray in a spontaneous way during worship. A child said, 'Worship is a time when we get to know God better and we can walk with God and talk with God'. Children become familiar with Anglican practice through the use of traditional prayers and responses. Acts of worship follow a pattern which gives the children a sense of liturgical structure and familiarity. During the interregnum, members of the congregation at St. Christopher's are playing an important role in the cycle of worship. The school worships in the parish church for major festivals and staff and children attend the Sunday family worship each month. This enables children and their families to feel part of the wider worshipping community. During the year, each class has the opportunity to attend a celebration of the Eucharist and this extends their understanding of Anglican liturgy and tradition. Visits to the church make a highly effective contribution to children's spiritual development and their understanding of the ways in which they can follow Jesus. Members of the ethos group evaluate worship and discuss future developments in their meetings with the Religious Education (RE) and worship subject leader. This ensures that children's ideas enrich everyone's experience. As yet, other members of the school community do not contribute to the evaluation process. Children have the opportunity to contribute to worship through prayers and readings. The ethos group plans and leads worship on a regular basis. As a result, children have a strong sense of having an important role to play in this central part of the school's life. The majority of children do not have a strong understanding of the Trinity.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding**

The school develops all aspects of teaching and learning in RE using a bespoke curriculum supported by the Blackburn syllabus. Planning is thorough and differentiated, ensuring that every child is able to learn successfully. Progress and standards are in line with those in other subjects. This is achieved through a range of teaching strategies and excellent use of appropriate resources. Creative teaching is highly effective in developing children's thinking skills and ability to discuss and share ideas. There is a good balance between learning about religion and reflecting on new experiences and knowledge. Children are enthusiastic learners and they enjoy a variety of written activities, discussion, drama and art. Godly Play and Philosophy for Children are also used to great effect to develop children's deeper understanding. Children demonstrate good prior knowledge and thinking skills and they are keen to answer challenging questions and give their opinions. The sharing and careful consideration of ideas make a positive contribution to children's spiritual and moral development. One child commented that 'Everyone enjoys RE because it is interesting and enjoyable'. Marking is used to guide children to the next steps in their learning and it encourages a reflective response. The highly committed subject leader uses a range of monitoring strategies to evaluate teaching and learning including book scrutiny, lesson observation and assessment tracking. The school is highly successful in teaching children about faiths other than Christianity. A Year 6 child said, 'Learning about different faiths helps us to respect the beliefs of others'. Christian values are clearly incorporated into the units of work in order to reinforce their importance and centrality in the school's approach to all areas of learning.

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

The headteacher has a clear vision for the school based on Christian belief, principles and values. She takes every opportunity to promote the school's distinctive Christian character. Staff and governors are committed to fostering all aspects of children's development and well-being through Christian care and love. In doing so, they have recognised the importance of the school's Christian character in creating an ethos which supports effective learning and the promotion of equal opportunities. The headteacher rightly attributes children's successful learning to the Christ-centred qualities of the school. The school knows its children and their families extremely well and meets individual needs through a culture of Christian nurturing. Parents recognise the distinctive Christian qualities of the school and speak highly of the respect with which they and their children are treated. Parents say that children's happiness and success are rooted in the Christian values and ethos which are at the heart of the school's daily life. Their children feel safe and secure and are therefore able to learn with confidence. Governors are knowledgeable and bring a range of skills. They have a clear understanding of their role. As a result, they support the school in a variety of ways and provide a high level of challenge. Action plans for RE and worship are included in the school's improvement plan and are discussed by the governing body as part of the strategic development process. The school's Christian ethos is seen as a thread which draws together every aspect of leadership and management. Provision is made for all staff to participate in continuing professional development and this makes a valuable contribution to effective teaching and learning in all areas. The school's strong link with the diocese provides opportunities for discussion and training and it enhances church school ethos and distinctiveness. There are strong connections with other church schools in the area and these provide opportunities for moderation of RE, professional development and the exploration of matters related to church school distinctiveness. The extremely strong links between the school, its federation partner and the church ensure that God is at the heart of the school and village community.

SIAMS report June 2016 Pott Shrigley C of E Primary School, SK10 5RT