

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Trinity Church of England High School

Cambridge Street, Hulme, Manchester M15 6HP

Diocese: Manchester

Local authority: Manchester
Dates of inspection: 13th January, 2011
Date of last inspection: 23rd January, 2007
School's unique reference number: 1055578
Headteacher: David Ainsworth
Inspector's name and number: Robert Haigh 660

School context

Trinity Church of England High School is an 11-16 secondary school of 1200 students serving the diocese of Manchester. It receives students from over 90 partner primary schools in several local authorities. A significant number of students come from a variety of faiths and ethnic backgrounds. It is a Technology College and undergoing major BSF new build, refurbishment and ICT investment for September 2011.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Trinity C.E. High School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

Students receive an outstanding Christian-inspired education at Trinity. Christian values and commitment are at the heart of all the school does. Inclusivity, harmony, mutual respect, trust and understanding within diversity characterise the school's ethos. These values and the positive attitudes to worship and learning help create an environment in which students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, personal growth, relationships, active citizenship and academic achievement are outstanding.

Established strengths

- The Christian ethos of the school within which all feel valued and benefit from excellent relationships and levels of care.
- The impact of worship on students' spiritual development.
- An R.E. department which achieves outstanding results and has a major influence on students' attitudes and behaviour.
- The outstanding contribution made by the Headteacher, leadership team, chaplain and governors to the distinctive Christian character of the school.

Focus for development

- Enable students to take a fuller part in preparing, leading and evaluating worship.
- Develop the school's physical environment to encourage spiritual development.

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

Trinity is a strong faith community where openly expressed Christian values make a positive impact on the success of all students through effective teaching, care and guidance. The school's foundation motto and aim, developed through consultation, are evident in its provision. Every member of the school is valued equally. In the words of one Student Council member, "There are no second class citizens at Trinity". Students form excellent relationships, speak of a high sense of "respectfulness" and of feeling safe, cared for, well supported in time of need and encouraged to achieve. Students have a high degree of spiritual awareness which they attribute to the school's Christian character, the opportunity to learn from each other's different faiths and the security provided for them to discuss their beliefs, ideas and feelings. Consequently, students speak with confidence of Christian principles and relate them to their own experience. They, with governors and parents value highly the Christian example of staff and the pastoral ministry, witness and contribution to worship of the chaplain. Students behave very well. They develop strong social and moral values through taking part in many extra-curricular activities. Their responsibility as citizens is promoted by active involvement in the local community, strong links with a school in Namibia

and support for a variety of charities. Their spiritual awareness is enhanced by the well-used area for prayer and reflection and Christian and other religious symbols, which are prominent in the school's public places, but less so elsewhere. The School Council would like to see more "visual reminders of faith" both within and outside the buildings to enrich the school's physical environment in keeping with its distinctive character.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is central to the Christian ethos of the school community and is valued by students, staff, governors and parents. The high importance accorded to worship is shown through the leadership and participation of senior staff, the Chaplain and visiting clergy and the attention given to its resourcing, planning and monitoring. Students benefit spiritually through contributing to worship through music and reading but they would welcome more opportunities to be involved in its preparation, organisation, leadership and evaluation. All students feel included, affirmed and inspired by worship in a variety of forms and settings, including pre-school prayers, the classroom Thought for the Day, year assemblies and special services held both within school and at St. Ann's Church and the Cathedral. They speak confidently about its positive impact on their faith, knowledge and understanding. It helps them think about their own and others' beliefs, their relationship with God and the implications of faith for behaviour. Students have a very good understanding of Christian practice because they are familiar with Bible stories, sing hymns and join in Christian prayers, including the Lord's Prayer. Themes from the Anglican tradition and other faiths are incorporated within the worship programme. Voluntary Eucharists, attended by a growing number of students, deepen their spiritual understanding and are valued as opportunities for prayer and reflection.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

R.E. has a high profile within the school, a record of outstanding academic success and makes a significant contribution to the spiritual and personal development of students and the school's distinctiveness. The Christian faith and other world faiths are studied to meet the needs of all students. The outstandingly led, dynamic, highly effective and well-resourced R.E. department employs a wide variety of creative, interactive approaches and cross-curricular learning skills. It is developing effective assessment for learning strategies and giving students more ownership of their own learning. This is shown in classroom activity and students' exercise books. The extension and embedding of these approaches is recognised by the department as an essential next step. These features, together with expert teaching, a vibrant learning environment and rigorous monitoring enable students to make excellent progress in both key stages. Attainment, achievement and value-added are outstanding. All students study R.E. to GCSE, engaging with it thoughtfully and enthusiastically. They are able to discuss confidently how it helps them reflect on their attitudes and behaviour, consider social and moral issues, see the connections between R.E, worship and the school's Christian character and deepen their understanding of their own and different religions, for example in a Year 7 lesson on Diwali.

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

The headteacher, his leadership team and the chaplain are strongly committed to and very effective in nurturing and communicating the school's Christian vision, values and distinctiveness. They are regarded as Christian role models by students, staff, governors and parents. Leadership is distributed throughout the school and members of staff speak of how valued they feel. Students, parents and other partners are proud of the school, involved in decision-making and review and would welcome more opportunities to contribute to the evaluation of church school features. An active, vigilant and supportive governing body is effective in sustaining the school's Christian ethos, for example by providing funding to support the student retreat and appointing the chaplain and a Christian art therapist. The school's website, various publications and policies and the staff handbook clearly reflect the school's Christian character, although its church school aspects could figure more prominently in school development plan priorities. The school draws strength from and contributes to the family of churches, for example through the work of a parish youth worker, the Cathedral and the diocese and enjoys an excellent reputation within its community.

SIAS report January, 2011. Trinity Church of England High School, Manchester M15 6HP