



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Augustine's Church of England High School

Oxford Road
Kilburn
London
NW6 5SN

Diocese: London

Local authority: Westminster

Dates of inspection: 14th and 15th May 2015

Date of last inspection: 26th and 27th January 2010

School's unique reference number: 101154

Headteacher: Eugene Moriarty

Inspector's name and number: Nick McKemey 280

School context

St Augustine's is a medium-sized, oversubscribed secondary school with 932 students on roll. The school serves an area of high social deprivation. The proportions of students eligible for pupil premium, speaking English as an additional language and with special educational needs are in the highest categories nationally. Although the admissions policy prioritises students from Christian backgrounds, seventy-percent of the students are from the local Muslim community. A quarter are from Christian families. The remainder have a wide range of ethnic, faith and cultural backgrounds. The school was judged to be outstanding by Ofsted in September 2013 and is in the top seven percent nationally for student progress.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Augustine's Church of England High School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- St Augustine's has the character of an inclusive Christian family in which every individual is valued and nurtured to "be the best you can be".
- Collective worship is a binding and transforming element at the heart of the whole school community.
- Outstanding religious education has a powerfully formative influence on life and learning at St Augustine's.
- Outstanding governance, leadership and management successfully generate a culture of wisdom, care and trust throughout the school.

Areas to improve •

There are no significant areas for improvement.

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

St Augustine's High School has all the hallmarks of inclusive Christian fellowship based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Every individual, whatever his or her denomination, faith or belief is valued and nurtured to 'be the best you can be'. 'Because they care about everyone we are like a big family,' commented a Year 10 student. The school has a practical and holistic educational vision that precisely meets the extensive needs of a diverse range of students. Biblically referenced and shared Christian values underpin high expectations, positive attitudes to learning and harmonious relationships. 'A keen sense of a community willing to achieve,' is how a Year 13 student described the school. Highly effective work in progress has already made the values more explicit throughout the life of the school. As a result, students understand the Christian values' theological roots and readily relate them to moral issues and concern for others. Clearly identified British values have successfully been aligned with the school's Christian values. Because of this students have an inclusive and outward looking perspective on the world. The distinctive Christian character of St Augustine's underpins the outstanding quality of pastoral care and focus on students' wellbeing. The curriculum, worship and religious education work in harmony to stimulate excellent spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. In this nurturing environment overall achievement and progress are significantly above national expectations. Disadvantaged students are successfully closing the gap with others in achieving expected progress in English and mathematics. Students become well-rounded individuals with the skills and wisdom to engage positively in the wider adult society. Worship and religious studies (RS) are core and integrated strands of the school's distinctive Christian and inclusive character. RS has a strong and appropriate emphasis on Christianity but nurtures excellent understanding, knowledge and respect for other denominations, faiths and beliefs.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is a powerfully binding and transformational element at the heart of life at St Augustine's Church of England School. By successfully promoting the inclusivity of the school's Christian values, worship has a profound impact on attitudes and behaviour across the whole school community. It underpins outstanding spiritual and moral development. Although the overarching content is essentially Anglican and Christian, students of all denominations, faiths and no faith enjoy worship. 'As we pray together you feel you are part of a family,' a Muslim Year 8 student observed. The effectiveness of the leadership and management of worship is outstanding. The result of well thought out strategic planning, worship is a wellbalanced blend of Church calendar events, and Biblically referenced themes. This is successfully worked out through a programme of tutor group, year and key stage worship. This overall provision facilitates students' excellent knowledge of the life of Jesus and the meaning of the Holy Trinity. The regularity of services in the parish church enhances the students' knowledge of the Anglican tradition and liturgy. The formation of worship is highly creative and involves instrumental music, signing and drama. This enables them to participate and make significant contributions to the planning and content of events both in church and in school. With students of all beliefs participating, choral singing is having a significant effect on the sense of belonging in the whole school community. The prayer life of the school is a salient feature of worship. As a result, students acquire a mature understanding of the different forms of collective and private prayer and their purposes. The chapel is extensively used by students of all faiths for prayer and reflection. The monitoring and evaluation of collective worship is based on secure evidence of its impact. This results in continuing improvements that strengthen the Christian character of the school.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Religious studies (RS) has a far greater impact on the Christian character of the school than would be expected from a successful core subject area. All students study RS to GCSE and it is a popular sixth form choice. Attainment and achievement in RS at GCSE, AS and A2 levels are outstanding by school and national comparisons. Outstanding progress in Year 7 is sustained to Year 9 when attainment meets GCSE thresholds. 'RS helps mould us from Year 7 onwards', observed a Year 11 student. This is because of excellent teaching and learning. Lessons are superbly paced, tasks challenging and assessment highly formative. The scheme of study is sensitively designed to meet the learning needs of every student. As a result, students have a strong appetite for learning and frequently tackle work at a higher level than initially expected. RS creates a secure climate of enquiry, understanding and respect in which students value and understand each other's traditions and beliefs. They enjoy theological dialogue with peers and teachers. 'You get great debating skills', reported a Year 10 student. These skills benefit learning across the curriculum and strengthen the sense of communal belonging. RS makes a significant contribution to promoting the school's Christian values. Students also simultaneously develop a profound understanding of the origins of British values. For example, a Year 7 unit of learning focuses on social justice in the light of the teaching of Jesus Christ. The RS curriculum enables students to develop spiritual insight and apply wisdom to difficult moral and social issues. This is the result of learning that develops excellent understanding of the Christian faith and the beliefs and ideologies of other major world religions. Visionary leadership and highly effective management are applied to curriculum development and assessment practice. There is an exemplary understanding of the purpose of religious education in a church school.

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

Outstanding governance, leadership and management generate a strong culture of wisdom, care and trust throughout St Augustine's School. There is a clear vision for the flourishing of the whole person. A Biblically rooted and universally applied value of inclusiveness is shared throughout the multi-faith and multi-cultural school community. This results in outstanding pastoral care and guidance and, because of this, staff and students feel valued and cared for. They know exactly who they can turn to and confide in in times of spiritual or personal crisis. Students exhibit high levels of discipline and positive behaviour because students and staff share the same principles of forgiveness and restorative justice. A teacher commented, 'this is a school I want to work at and my daughter to go to'. The education provided is holistic and meticulously meets the needs of a diverse range of learners. This results in outstanding academic achievement, SMSC development and personal wellbeing. The governors play a strong strategic role in supporting and challenging the leadership on the impact of the school's mission. They work with the Parents, Pupils and Community Committee and maintain an active presence in school life. In this way they secure the effectiveness of the inclusive Christian character of St Augustine's for the diverse and changing student population. The school's Christian values and church connections stimulate the students' interest in and compassion for others. This stimulates a strong outward looking ethos of charitable action and mutual collaboration with an extensive number of organisations and causes. Highly effective strategic leadership makes collective worship and RS complementary and interrelated central elements of school life. The issues raised in the previous SIAS report have been effectively addressed within the overall drive for improvement of the church school. The senior leadership provides inspiration and support for those contemplating headship in church schools.

SIAMS report May 2015 St Augustine's C of E High School London NW6 5SN