



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

North Somercotes Church of England Primary School

Warren Lane
North Somercotes
Louth
Lincolnshire
LN11 7QB

Previous SIAMS Grade: Satisfactory

Current Inspection Grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire
Date of inspection: 19 June 2015
Date of last inspection: June 2011
School's unique reference number: 120692
Head Teacher: Paul Floyd
Inspector's name and number: John Gibbs 818

School context

The school is smaller than average having 170 children on roll. The number of pupils in receipt of pupil premium and the percentage of ethnic minority children is below average. The vast majority of pupils come from White British backgrounds. The proportion of children with special educational needs and disabilities is below the national average. The school serves the village of North Somercotes and the surrounding rural and coastal area. St Mary's Church is a short distance away.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of North Somercotes Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The Christian ethos of this school is well established and explicit. Christian values are understood, shared, and consistently lived out by the whole the school community.
- Pupils behave well and give of their best at all times. Relationships between all members of the school community are impressively linked to the Christian character and values of the school.
- A nurturing Christian environment incorporates high quality teaching and learning experiences which enable pupils to make excellent progress and achieve well.

Areas to improve

- Ensure the school worship group, 'Faith Followers' are supported in leading and evaluating school worship in order to increase the involvement of pupils.
- Develop an outdoor spiritual garden in order to increase opportunities for spiritual reflection.

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

This is a very happy and caring school where Christian values such as forgiveness and respect permeate all aspects of the school's daily life. These values are seen to impact positively on the experiences of all the pupils. This together with effective teaching and learning experiences results in good standards of achievement in all areas of the curriculum. The senior leadership team provides very effective Christian leadership and pupils are well supported within an extremely positive environment which underpins the atmosphere of respect for all. Pupils speak positively about the friendly nature of the school and also the many opportunities and curriculum enrichment activities available. As one pupil said, 'this school is magic, the staff are very kind and we do lots of exciting things'. Attendance is above the national average and pupils make good to outstanding progress in all areas of the curriculum. Religious education (RE) makes a positive contribution to pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. It supports pupils' growing knowledge of Christianity and the other major world religions and enables their good understanding and respect for diverse communities. This awareness of diversity extends to Christianity as a major world faith. Pupils demonstrate good knowledge of the major events in the life of Jesus and speak with enthusiasm about their RE lessons in which they examine 'tricky questions'. There is regular input from the vicar and the Bishop's Visitor which impact strongly on the children's knowledge of Christianity. The school makes good use of its environment to celebrate its Christian foundation and to nurture the SMSC development of pupils. Pupils and staff say they look forward to the planned spiritual garden with space for quiet reflection away from the busyness of the school day. The relationships between all members of the school community are excellent. This is because they are based on the school's core values which ensure that respect and compassion are always high on the agenda. Pupil behaviour across the school is excellent and records show that exclusions are non-existent. Parents value the accessibility of staff and speak highly of the welcoming and inclusive nature of the school. They value the family atmosphere and the ways in which the school encourages independence and teaches the children to think for themselves about religion. One parent said, 'my daughter often gives examples of each school core Christian value as they arise in the home environment'. Pupils are motivated to support and fundraise for a wide range of charities at a local, national and global level. One child commented that it was important to help others and that this also made them feel good about themselves.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The impact of worship is high. This is because it is well planned and regular evaluation by the senior leaders and governors ensures high quality of delivery. The daily act of distinctively Christian worship is central to the life of this school. It is an uplifting occasion recognised as a time for reflection, prayer and celebration. This results in collective worship of a high quality which develops the children's personal spirituality to a high level. Worship celebrates the school's Christian values in an inspirational manner. It is recognised and understood by pupils to be a time to come together to think about Jesus and celebrate God's wonderful world. Bible stories are used frequently and the children are able to speak about the impact it has with perception and obvious enjoyment. Pupils show a highly developed knowledge of the concept of The Trinity with thoughtful comments on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. One pupil said that, 'The Holy Spirit is your imagination'. Pupils are enthusiastic and positive about the wide variety of collective worship experiences provided by the school. They express their appreciation and excitement at their involvement in planning and delivering worship themselves with the school worship council known as 'Faith Followers'. There is a strong relationship between the school and the local church. This is echoed by parents who welcome the opportunity to participate in acts of worship both in the school and also in the parish church of St Mary. Inclusion is ensured through the selection of a very effective and broad set of themes that link with an emphasis on Christian values and current affairs. The church's year underpins the programme enabling good provision for developing understanding of Anglican tradition and practice. Pupils' attitude to prayer is respectful and very positive. There are many occasions for

prayer and reflection on a daily basis which the children value. A pupils' worship council regularly evaluates worship, showing how the school has moved on since the last inspection. However, this model of evaluation is a recent addition and has not yet been embedded.

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

The effectiveness of the senior leadership team and governors in developing the school's Christian ethos is excellent. They articulate with confidence and clarity a well developed vision for the school which is rooted in distinctive Christian values. This has been shared extensively with other partners and is clearly expressed in documentation including comprehensive action plans for both RE and collective worship. This Christian vision has a major impact on the high standards of achievement in the school. There is a highly effective programme of staff development which helps prepare staff for future leadership across church schools. The previous deputy moved to the headship of another church school in April 2015. The quality of the partnership between the school and the local community and diocese is excellent. Self-evaluation is realistic and of very good quality which makes the school's approach to improving standards robust. RE and collective worship meet statutory requirements and are well led and managed, leading to excellent practice in both areas. The headteacher and senior teachers, supported by a number of other committed members of staff, foundation governors and clergy model active Christian leadership. This has a positive impact on the well-being of the whole school community. Parents and pupils feel that their views are sought and valued by school leaders. Team spirit in the school is very high and members of staff are positive about relationships within the school. Parents see the school's Christian ethos as a key reason for choosing the school. Parents acknowledge the way that links between the school and the parish church are helping pupils to see the church as a welcoming place. This in turn develops their understanding of Christian worship and practice. The arrangements for RE and collective worship meet statutory requirements. The issues for development highlighted in the last inspection have been met in full.

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