



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Willoughby St Helena's Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School

Main Road
Willoughby
Alford
Lincolnshire
LN13 9 NH

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: 7 July 2016

Date of last inspection: 12 July 2011

School's unique reference number: 120587

Headteacher: Sue Belton

Inspector's name and number: Roger Moore 353

School context

The school has 131 pupils mainly from a White British background and serves Willoughby and nearby villages. At 19% the proportion of pupils with disabilities or special educational needs is approximately at the national average for primary schools. 4 pupils have statements of educational needs delivered through Education Health Plans. 36% of pupils receive Pupil Premium support which includes 6 Looked After Children. Attendance, data demonstrates a 3 year rising trend, is above the national average and that of the local authority. The school is part of a small collaborative partnership of 5 primary schools, 3 of which are church schools. An extensive building project, including additional classroom space, has enabled facilities to be greatly improved.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Willoughby St Helena's Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The firmly embedded Christian values based education which impacts strongly upon the Christian distinctiveness of the school and on the behaviour and attitudes of all members of the school.
- Led by an inspirational headteacher all members of the school community have a shared vision and Christian values for the school which impacts strongly on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils.
- The effectiveness and rigour of self-evaluation and involvement of all stakeholders which is driving the school forward and ensuring pupils' achievements and behaviour are of the highest quality.
- The excellent relationships within the school and the wider community make this a purposeful and happy school community.

Areas to improve

- To develop the shared understanding of how a Christian values led cross curricular

teaching and learning programme will deepen an individual's personal spirituality.

- To help children understand fully that Christianity is a multi-cultural world faith.

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

A strong Christian ethos underpins all aspects of teaching and learning, pupils' well-being and their SMSC development. A firm commitment to the school community by pupils, staff, governors and parents is seen in all aspects of daily life. Distinctively Christian values are shared and embraced by all members of the school community and are deeply embedded in the daily life of school. They are closely linked to the bible and the teachings of Jesus. The Christian values are known by the pupils and displayed in each room as part of the class code of conduct. They help the pupils to respect and value others and create a fair and positive school ethos. Staff and governors act as excellent role models for pupils, living out the Christian values at the core of the school's vision. Relationships are excellent at all levels and pupils behave very well. Pupils enjoy coming to school and attendance levels are very high. There have been no exclusions and there are no reported incidents of bullying or racism. Standards of achievement are generally good and pupils' achievements are celebrated by all. An emphasis is placed on a cross curricular, creative curriculum, driven by the Christian values. As a result, all pupils benefit from a wide range of activities. These activities foster creativity in many areas of learning including RE whilst also developing key literacy and numeracy skills. Pupils refer to the values in their lessons. Planning for lessons includes reference to the values to be embraced. The discussion and reflection that arises has a positive impact on learning and pupil progress. RE as observed during the inspection has a major impact on the experiences of pupils. This is evidenced by the confidence they show in discussion and the Christian events that are special to them. Pupils know that they are valued and this gives them the resilience to meet challenges. They take pride in their work and value the relationships they have with the staff in school. They proudly show visitors around the school and talk about the impact on the whole school community of their achievements and the many roles they undertake. Pupils leave the school confident and ready for future challenges with a strong grounding in core Christian values. Pupils are encouraged to think about and understand the needs of others, and charities are well supported. The school recognises the need to widen pupils' understanding and experience of major world religions and the place of Christianity as a world faith.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is clearly central to the school's Christian identity. Worship is developed each day from the first act of worship of the week making it a meaningful and purposeful occasion for staff and pupils alike. It is of high quality and impacts strongly on pupils' spiritual and moral development who see collective worship as a vital contribution to their personal development. Based on a themed approach around one of the seven Christian values collective worship is valued by all. Built on a recommendation from the last inspection all staff now attend each act of worship. Those leading and those present are able to illustrate and reinforce the beliefs and Christian values proclaimed and lived out by the school. The weekly focus on individual core values aids pupils' understanding and reinforces the link to the Christian story. It is further supported through the links to the Church calendar and regular sharing of Biblical text. Parents speak fondly of their involvement in determining the Christian values. The creation of the little book of values is treasured by the parents is very helpful in keeping them informed and engaged in the life of this church school. Worship is very popular with pupils, who recognise its importance in terms of praising and thanking God. They also like learning more about God and Jesus. Each occasion is held in high regard and the reverent atmosphere for prayer and reflection is seen to aid spiritual growth. All school staff, the vicar and a range of visitors are involved in leading collective worship enabling pupils to gain a wide experience. Pupils benefit from access to quiet areas for reflection time, not just in worship. Older pupils are developing their understanding about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and have a strong sense of 'God is with

us'. The close links with the parish church and the regular school services and celebrations held there enrich pupils understanding of Anglican practice and belief. It also enables the school and the wider Christian community to worship together. Collective worship is informally monitored each day by the headteacher and staff. Through their daily presence all staff know the themes and follow up the key aspects in lessons. Governor monitoring reports show that pupils know and use the Christian values constantly. Pupils also speak about Bible stories and lessons learned in RE. Clear links made between collective worship, RE and SMSC development strongly enhance pupil learning and understanding. Teachers are particularly good at questioning pupils and helping them to reflect at a deep level. Planning for RE is in agreement with the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus. It is thorough, focuses on the seven Christian values and is closely linked to pupil progress ensuring a very good balance between learning about and learning from religions. Pupils are able to explore Christianity and other world faiths through developing and applying a wide range of skills. They use religious vocabulary very well.

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

The headteacher works with vision, energy and Christian commitment to build upon a deeply embedded Christian ethos in which every person is seen as important. She has worked tirelessly to create a team which supports and shares her vision and values of a distinctive church school. She has high levels of expectation and commitment and has, together with the governing body, driven the school forward as a church school. Continued development of the school as a church school features highly in the school development plan. The self-evaluation process is robust and rigorous. The headteacher is developing the system to ensure that the church school aspects continue to have equal status with other aspects of school development. All adults, including the parent body share the vision and values and are totally committed to providing the best education possible for the pupils in their care. Parents choose to send their children to this school because of the way the school lives out its values. The aspects for development, identified in the previous inspection have been addressed. The school's profile as a Christian values led church school has been cemented and its development, worship and approach to a rich and varied curriculum meeting the needs of its learners is impressive. The focus and understanding of the Christian values continues to make a strong impact on pupils' achievement and well-being. Regular visits and contributions from the governors to monitor initiatives and challenge innovations enable the school to move forward in developing and improving the educational provision for all pupils within a church school. The governors see their role as being important in embracing and enhancing the Christian vision of the school. Information and communication with parents and others in the community clearly outline its distinctive Christian values as a church school. Robust monitoring demonstrates that RE standards match those in the core subjects. Parents' and pupils' attendance at church services, celebrating major Christian festivals, brings an understanding of Anglican life to the school community. Staff are well supported in their professional development through use of Diocesan training and this effectively increases their skills and knowledge to develop the school as a church school. The leadership of the school is enhanced by the contribution of all staff. Pupils on the school council also bring a considered voice to future developments. Effective leadership is also demonstrated through the strong and mutually beneficial relationship with the local church and the vicar's strong support. Through her regular contributions pupils gain a good understanding of Anglican belief and practice. Parents are valued members of the school community. They are welcomed to collective worship and other school events and know that their opinions are listened to and valued. Through her role as subject leader the headteacher ensures that RE makes a major contribution to the whole school curriculum. The arrangements for religious education and collective worship meet statutory requirements.

SIAMS report July 2016 Willoughby St Helena's Church of England Primary School, Willoughby, Alford, Lincolnshire LN13 9NH