

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Newton on Trent Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	High Street, Newton on Trent, Lincoln, LN1 2JS
Current SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Diocese	Lincoln
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Local Authority	Lincolnshire
Date of inspection	13 October 2016
Date of last inspection	5 December 2011
School's unique reference number	120578
Headteacher	Alyson Bristow
Inspector's name and number	John Gibbs 818

School context

Newton on Trent is a smaller than average rural primary school serving the village of Newton and neighbouring villages. The number of pupils in receipt of pupil premium and the percentage of ethnic minority children is below average. Almost all pupils come from White British backgrounds. The proportion of children with special educational needs and disabilities is below the national average. The school has a close relationship with the local parish church.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Newton on Trent as a Church of England school are good

- A positive and nurturing Christian environment encourages good teaching and learning experiences for all pupils.
- The Christian ethos of this school is well established and explicit so that pupils understand the importance of caring for others and giving their best at all times.
- Christian values are shared by the whole school community and its Christian foundation has a major impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

Areas to improve

- Widen the pupils' knowledge of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith in order to increase their understanding of and respect for diversity and difference both within the church and other faith communities.
- Involve pupils in the evaluation of collective worship in order to enhance their spiritual development.
- Ensure the school has a strategic plan for developing staff and governors in order to increase their effectiveness as leaders in the church school context.

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

This is a happy and caring school where explicit Christian values of respect, perseverance and forgiveness are well embedded within school life. These values are lived out by pupils who have a good knowledge of Bible stories. They describe how Christian values underpin their achievements and also their daily life. For example, one pupil described how the value of respect helped them settle a fall-out between friends. Relationships between all members of the school community are very good and staff and pupils respect and value each other. As one pupil said, 'It is a small school where we all know everybody really well and help each other all the time.'

Parents speak positively of the school's distinctively Christian ethos and its support for all children whatever their ability or needs. One parent said, 'The school is so welcoming, everyone is so friendly and the children are taught values which will serve them all their lives.' Pupils are well supported both in their learning and pastorally in a very positive atmosphere which incorporates good quality teaching and learning experiences. Well above average levels of attendance and lack of exclusions are underpinned by positive encouragement and high behaviour expectations.

The school makes effective use of its environment to celebrate its Christian foundation and to nurture the moral, social and cultural development of children. Examples include classroom and displays in the church of the school's Christian values. Religious education (RE) makes a major contribution to pupil's SMSC development by supporting their knowledge of Christianity and other major world religions. The impact of the school's Christian character is not yet outstanding because pupils' knowledge of Christianity as a worldwide multi-cultural faith is not developed. Pupils are encouraged to support and fundraise for a wide range of charities. One pupil said, 'It's important to help people who don't have as much as we do and it makes you feel good about yourself.'

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship is an important part of the school day. It is a happy occasion when the whole school community joins together in celebration and prayer in the adjoining parish church. Worship includes the extensive use of Bible stories that deliver themes linked to the school's values. Pupils describe the impact of these worship themes with enthusiasm. They enjoy the collective worship experiences provided by the school and contribute through writing prayers and enjoy singing a wide variety of hymns.

There are a range of worship styles led by various staff members, local clergy and outside speakers. This contributes to the children's understanding of different Christian traditions in worship and the seasons of the church's year. Similarly, the celebration of festivals in the church year enhances the worship programme by developing an understanding of Anglican tradition and practice. Pupils are aware of the Trinity and are able to talk about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit with some degree of understanding.

There is a very strong relationship between school and local church. This is appreciated by children and parents who value the regular opportunities to attend school acts of worship in church. Pupil's attitude to prayer is respectful and positive. They know a variety of prayers and make regular contributions to acts of worship as well as at other times during the school day. Pupils have some opportunities to be involved in worship but the extent to which they regularly plan, lead and evaluate worship is less well developed.

Collective worship is effectively monitored by foundation governors with the headteacher and this informs the school development plan. It is not yet outstanding because children do not play a role in the evaluation of collective worship. Opportunities for reflection are well developed; there are reflection areas in each classroom and a prayer garden in the school grounds in memory of a former pupil. These all help to develop pupils' understanding of personal prayer as a key part of their own spiritual journey.

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

The headteacher and governors effectively promote a vision for the school based on distinctively Christian values. They are effective in promoting the continual development of the school's Christian ethos which has continued to develop since the last inspection. The vision is clearly expressed in documentation and the school improvement plan has a dedicated section on church school distinctiveness. These have ensured that RE and collective worship feature as key areas for development and improvement.

The headteacher and governors model active Christian leadership in their work and this has a major impact on the well-being of the whole school community. Leadership is not yet outstanding because the school does not have a strategic plan for developing the staff and governors as church school leaders and evaluation strategies on the overall effectiveness of the school as a church school are not embedded.

Parents and pupils feel that their views are sought and valued by school leaders. Team spirit in the school is high and members of staff are positive about relationships within the school. The school's Christian vision impacts positively on the standards of behaviour and achievement in the school. The quality of the partnership between the school and the local community is good and impacts positively on the pupils' understanding of local, national and global communities.

School self-evaluation is realistic leading to effective improvement strategies which meet the needs of pupils in all areas. Collective worship and RE meet statutory requirements. They contribute effectively to pupils' understanding of Christian values. The areas for improvement of the previous inspection have been met in full.

SIAMS Report October 2016 Newton on Trent Church of England Primary School, Newton on Trent, LNI 2JS