



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Denton Church of England Primary School

Church Street
Denton
Grantham
Lincolnshire
NG32 1LG

Previous SIAMS Grade: Outstanding

Current Inspection Grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire
Date of inspection: 9 October 2015
Date of last inspection: September 2010
School's unique reference number: 120518
Headteacher: Sheriden Edwards
Inspector's name and number: John Gibbs 818

School context

The school is smaller than average having 70 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 above the national average. The school is in close proximity to St Andrew's Church and serves the village of Denton and the surrounding rural area. Since the last inspection the school has federated with Harlaxton Church of England Primary School under the same headteacher and governing body.

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

- The Christian ethos of this school is exceptional. Christian values are understood, shared, and consistently lived out by the whole school community.
- Pupils understand the importance of caring for others 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 supportive Christian environment encourages very high quality teaching and learning outcomes which enable pupils to make excellent progress and achieve well.

Areas to improve

- Create a forum which enables pupils to plan and evaluate collective worship in order to effectively utilise the pupil voice.
- Create an outdoor spiritual garden in order to enhance 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 school where Christian values such as equality and respect permeate all aspects of the school's daily life. These values, known as the seven habits, are seen to impact positively on the experiences of all the pupils. Together with highly effective teaching and learning experiences this results in outstanding standards of achievement across the curriculum. The senior leadership team provides very effective Christian leadership. Pupils are well supported within a highly supportive and 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 great, the grown ups are very friendly and we do lots of really good stuff'. Attendance is well 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. There is regular input from the vicar and other members of the church community which impacts effectively 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. 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 and dedication of staff, and speak highly of the welcoming and inclusive nature of the school. They value the positive atmosphere and the ways in which the school encourages high standards of achievement and teaches the children to think for themselves about religion. One parent said, 'my daughter frequently gives examples of each school habit at home'. 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 helped them work together as a team.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The impact of worship is extremely 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 effectively. 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 often used and the children are able to speak about the impact it has with perception and obvious enjoyment. Pupils show a well reasoned knowledge of the concept of The Trinity with thoughtful comments on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They frequently help plan and lead assemblies but their role in evaluating worship is less well developed. There is a strong relationship between the school and the parish church. The children visit St Andrew's for a weekly act of worship led by a member of the church community. Parents welcome the opportunity to participate in acts of worship both in the school and also in church. 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. They frequently write their own prayers and deliver them with confidence and sensitivity in worship and other times during the school day.

The school grace before lunch was written by a group of children. Although each classroom has a reflection area outside spaces are less well developed for this. The school has plans to develop a spiritual garden centred on an existing willow dome.

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 quality of the partnership between the school and the local community and diocese is excellent. Self-evaluation is realistic and of very good quality with input from all groups in the school community. This ensures the school's approach to improving standards is very robust. Collective worship meets statutory requirements and is well led and managed leading to excellent practice. The headteacher and senior teachers, supported by a number of other 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 know 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. They 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 issues for development highlighted in the last inspection have been met in full.

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