



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Thrussington Church of England Primary School

Hoby Road
Thrussington
Leicester
LE7 4TH

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

This inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Leicester

Local authority: N/A

Dates of inspection: 23rd January 2015

Date of last inspection: 12th January 2010

School's unique reference number: 138926

Headteacher: Elizabeth Moore

Inspector's name and number: D G Jones (166)

School context

Thrussington is a small rural school a few miles north of Leicester. Half of the pupils attending are from out of the catchment area because of the school's reputation and its Christian foundation. The numbers on roll have increased from 56 in 2010 to 70 this current academic year. Most pupils are of white British heritage. A below average number of pupils are eligible for additional government spending. The school has become an autonomous Academy and a designated National Teaching School.

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

- The school's Christian character has a high profile. It is deeply embedded in the daily life of the school and can be seen in the relationship of pupils and staff.
- High standards are expected and achieved in learning and behaviour.
- There is an able governing body which plays an important role in monitoring and encouraging.
- Collective worship and religious education are of a very high standard and contribute to spiritual, moral and cultural development.

Areas to improve

- Develop the role of the co-ordinator for RE and collective worship..
- Create an effective relationship with the sister school in Leicester and develop that with the sponsored school in the Philippines.
- Increase the teaching area to accommodate the many pupils who wish to attend the school and improve staff facilities.

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

This is a caring community founded on the teachings and values of Christianity. The commitment of staff and pupils is deeply embedded in all aspects of school life and in the relationships between people. All children are enabled to excel and to learn and their teachers are committed to enabling them to achieve the highest possible standards in their work and their personal relationships. The headteacher offers clear sighted and determined leadership. In her time here, the school has been transformed. She has been able to appoint new teachers and they work closely together with the same commitment. Monitoring and evaluation are rigorous and pupil progress is regularly assessed. There are close links with the parish church and with the wider community. The school choir contributed to the celebration of the village switching-on of the Christmas lights. The school council suggests new ideas for improvements in the school and the support of charities such as the disaster in the Philippines, with which the school has a strong link. Governors and parents strongly support the school's Christian foundation and are proud of the high standards achieved. An area for quiet reflection is well used and there are proposals for creating an outside area for reflection and contemplation.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The headteacher is the leader for both RE and collective worship works in conjunction with staff and the vicar each term to plan themes which are based largely on recommendations from the diocese. It is recognised as an important part of the school day and all staff and pupils attend. Worship is led by the headteacher and other teachers in turn and by the vicar once a fortnight. A Christian group from another parish leads about once every half term. Parents of other faiths also participate and contribute on relevant themes. Worship has a strong emphasis on Christianity and pupils are encouraged to think about their own lives and of those around them. Songs to accompany worship are well matched to the theme and are sung with great enjoyment. Pupils appreciate any opportunity to help with leading worship and they respond readily when questions are asked. They listen carefully and respond eloquently. Reflection on John the Baptist and the baptism of Christ was greatly helped by a picture on the screen, and drew on pupils' great understanding of baptism washing away sins, and the meaning of repentance and forgiveness and of the symbols of a candle and the cross. Pupils remembered that a candle is lit at baptism and is given to godparents. They also realised that a candle shows a right path. Worship concluded with the Lord's Prayer. Pupils also pray before lunch and at the end of the school day. Worship takes place in church at festivals and other special occasions and pupils and the many parents who attend enjoy this. Governors play an important part in monitoring collective worship, and each act is recorded and evaluated. Pupils' behaviour during worship is exemplary.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

At this small school, classes have to encompass a wide range of ages and abilities, but teaching is outstanding and planning ensures that after excellent presentations, pupils are divided into small groups with varied tasks to develop the one theme. They are helped by a number of staff, teachers and teaching assistants to ensure that all progress well and achieve the highest standards. Written work is of high quality and marking is thorough and helpful. In a lesson with younger pupils, the story of the prodigal son was told in simple language using models to illustrate and pupils were very attentive. Questions left with groups to act out and consider required deep thinking about the role and feelings of the sons and their father. It linked with earlier teaching about forgiveness and repentance. Another lesson looked at the temptations of Jesus following his baptism and was coupled with the Muslim story of the sacrifice of his son by Ibrahim and Muslim life, food and family. One group considered the nature of temptation and how to respond and another researched on the computer the practice of Lent and how it related to Jesus' temptations. Thus, different ages and abilities all considered temptation in very different ways. Two families of other faiths have participated in lessons and explained

their faith and practice. Pupils and parents spoke of interesting discussions about religion, comparing the school's teaching with family beliefs. Visits to places of worship of other faiths have given pupils a good understanding of other faiths and cultures. The school is also developing a valuable link with the Philippines due to visits made by one of the teachers and the school is planning a link with a city school. Monitoring and evaluation are rigorous and extensive and Governors are deeply involved. The subject makes a valuable contribution to outstanding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and sound links are made to science, history, English and music where appropriate.

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

The very strong and committed leadership of the headteacher together with the wholehearted support of staff and governors ensures that the school's Christian foundation and values pervade all aspects of the school's work. Their determination that every child should achieve the highest possible standard has been successful. There is now a strong governing body with a breadth of valuable experience and it is fully involved in planning, monitoring and evaluation. The headteacher is the leader for both RE and collective worship and is working in conjunction with staff to further develop the subject areas. The school building does need extension and additional facilities for staff. Governors have put forward ambitious proposals to achieve this and deserve to be funded. Recognition as a Teaching School and Academy places extra demands on the headteacher and governors, but they are well able to take this on. Emphasis is placed on training for staff and governors and advantage is taken of appropriate courses. The school can certainly assist others in the diocese and in the local group and is in a very good position to bring on leaders for the future.