



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Cuckney Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

School Lane
Cuckney
Mansfield
NG17 2JT

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Good

Diocese: Southwell and Nottingham

Local authority: Nottinghamshire

Dates of inspection: 25 June 2015

Date of last inspection: 21 April 2010

School's unique reference number: 122757

Headteacher: Lisa Crossland

Inspector's name and number: Louise Patterson (310)

School context

Cuckney Church of England Primary School is smaller than average and is situated in the rural village of Cuckney. The vast majority of pupils are from White British backgrounds. Pupils are drawn from a very wide area with only around a quarter coming from within the parish boundary. Both the year 6 and year 5 groups are particularly small with considerably larger age groups lower down the school. Two of the four teachers were appointed in September 2014. Pupil premium numbers are well below national average. The school is located a considerable distance from the parish church across a very busy road.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Cuckney Church of England VC Primary School as a Church of England school are good.

- Christian nurture is clearly evident resulting in pupils who are very well cared for and behave well. They are developing into articulate young people who are able to discuss a range of issues.
- Christian service, respect and compassion are displayed in the relationships between staff and learners, among learners, between staff and in the wider community recognising the unique gifts in every individual.
- The all-inclusive approach to the church school ethos and the spiritual dimension which enriches the Christian life of the school resulting in a sense of belonging to a Christian community and individual spiritual growth.

Areas to improve

- Introduce an ongoing, structured approach to self-evaluation of the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Cuckney as a church school to inform development priorities.
- Place more emphasis on the involvement of pupils in the planning and delivery of worship, along with the introduction of elements of Anglican liturgy so as to enrich the Anglican life of the school.
- Introduce information into public documentation to reflect the good practice and importance placed on collective worship.

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

The school's ethos, relationships and treatment of every child as a child of God make it very clear that the life and work of the school is firmly rooted in Christian values. Christian values are being lived out and continue to have a very positive impact on the whole school community. It manifests in such areas as the quality of care and respect for each other, the behaviour of pupils and high quality classroom practice. Pupils are able to articulate to a degree what it means for them to go to a church school, saying such things as 'we know because there is a fish on our badge and that's a Christian symbol' and 'the Bishop came to our school and he runs churches'. Data confirms that pupil attainment is generally in line with national averages, which is a reflection of the focussed support for children of all abilities and the teachers' commitment to the school as a Christian institution. These and non-academic achievements, like attendance, are celebrated in a range of ways which both pupils and parents greatly appreciate. Pupils say that they enjoy coming to school and that they feel very safe and well cared for, as a result attendance is above average. Pupils and staff work hard to contribute significantly to wide range of charities including Christian Aid. Religious education (RE) is recognised as increasingly important in the school. Recent lesson observations by the head teacher and new co-ordinator indicate a reasonably well delivered and emerging area of the curriculum which is having an increased impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of both pupils and staff. RE is beginning to make a contribution to the school as a Christian community as well as increasing pupil knowledge and understanding of a range of diverse communities. Pupils appreciate and make good use of the 'reflection areas' in each classroom. These are making a significant contribution to the spiritual dimension of the school. Pupils commented 'if you are feeling sad you can go in there to just calm down' and 'if you want to pray to God you can sit and be quiet by the prayer tree in our reflection area'. Active cooperation and mutually supportive approach is indicative of the highly positive and supportive staff team. Adults within the school are providing excellent role models of hard work, care and love of the individual child. This results in pupils who are very well behaved and have a positive attitude towards the school as a Christian community. Pupils rarely visit the church due to the logistics of the village. Reasonable steps are taken to ensure some visits do take place with the support of the local church. Parents speak very highly of the school as a church school. They say such things as 'morals in the school are a huge thing', 'it's very inclusive and no one is ever left out' and 'promotion of the Christian values are at the heart of everything'. They say that they are kept well informed about their child and school events, saying that school reports truly reflect their child as an individual.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Worship plays an important part in the life of the school which has a positive impact on the lives of both staff and pupils. There are opportunities for the development of the spiritual dimension such as prayers and periods of quiet reflection being clearly in evidence. These are taken up with enthusiasm. There is a clear understanding that the teachings of Jesus can be lived out through caring relationships, good behaviour and mutual respect. Pupils and staff are engaged in the worship and clearly enjoy the experience. Pupils commented that they gain much from times in worship 'especially the stories'. There are sometimes discussions about areas raised in worship followed up in class. This gives opportunities for pupils to talk about big questions and their feelings. Prayer is a daily feature of the school, being said at lunch time and in worship. Pupils enjoy and take pride in the opportunities to lead prayers and take an active part in worship. There is some understanding of the concept of the Trinity within worship. Christian worship is well planned by the new co-ordinator, who is starting to demonstrate ability and commitment in leading both worship and religious education. There is an appropriate balance between whole school, key stage and class worship. There has been some consultation with stakeholders about new themes for worship, therefore giving wider ownership. However, pupils are not sufficiently involved in the planning and delivery of worship. Pupils said that they would welcome this opportunity. Major Christian festivals are

celebrated in school and pupils and parents are invited to church for others. Visitors deliver worship on a regular basis which pupils say they enjoy. Parents welcome and speak very positively about opportunities to be involved in worship saying 'they are a real joy to be part of'.

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

The enthusiastic and committed Christian leadership and management provided by the headteacher and governors contributes significantly to the success of this good church school. The Christian vision of the school is effectively promoted through the quality of the relationships, prospectus, website and school badge, clearly in evidence on a day to day basis. The prospectus does not currently reflect the centrality of collective worship to school life. There is a very good team spirit with everyone being actively part of the church school ethos. All adults within the school are good role models and provide inspiration for the high expectations of behaviour, care and respect for the individual, which are all significant characteristics of Cuckney School. There are strong, mutually supportive links with the local parish through the lay reader who is also the chair of governors. Local church members provide support for the school both practically and spiritually. There are strong and productive links with the diocese which are greatly appreciated by the school leadership. Relationships with parents and the wider community are very good, as a parent commented 'the school teaches good values and a real care for each other' and 'the needs of the individual child are paramount'. They greatly appreciate the 'very open door' policy of the school. Pupils say that they have an effective voice within the school with both individuals and the school council being heard and their comments taken on board. The self-evaluation carried out by the school is accurate and the areas they have highlighted are entirely appropriate. The succession planning for the new co-ordinator of worship and religious education has been taken seriously and the role is currently being developed. The school is aware that this change needs to be carefully monitored. There has been progress made in one of the key issues from the previous denominational inspection but the other two remain as key issues. The school meets the statutory requirements in both RE and collective worship. The good leadership, supported by members of the local church, governors and the diocese, is very well placed to move the school forward within its' Christian foundation. However, there is a need for a structured approach to reviewing the effectiveness and distinctiveness of Cuckney as a church school monitored by foundation governors. These factors, alongside a staff who are committed to creating the best learning outcomes for pupils, will enable the school to continue its journey towards becoming an outstanding church school.

SIAMS report June 2015 Cuckney Church of England (VC) Primary School, Nottinghamshire, NG20 9NB