



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

North Cotes Church of England Primary School

Sea Lane
North Cotes
Grimsby
DN36 5UZ

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Good

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincoln
Dates of inspection: Thursday 21 January 2016
Date of last inspection: May 2011
School's unique reference number: 120579
Executive Headteacher: Kelly Atterby
Inspector's name and number: Roger Moore 353

School context

North Cotes Church of England Primary, with 70 pupils, is smaller than an average-sized primary school. Pupils attend from the village and the surrounding area and 19% are eligible for pupil premium funding. The vast majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Currently there are no pupils with a statement of educational need or education healthcare plan. The percentage of pupils on the special needs register is broadly in line with the national average. The executive headteacher was appointed in June 2015. The school is, along with two non-church primary schools part of the Fenland Federation.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of North Cotes Primary School as a Church of England school are good

- The strong leadership of the executive headteacher, head of school and church school lead is well supported by the governing body and all staff. Together they ensure a focus on developing a strong Christian ethos which inspires the continued drive for improvement throughout the school.
- The Christian values of the school underpin all aspects of school life and are understood by both children and adults.
- The Christian values inspire supportive and caring relationships between members of the school community and have a positive impact on the children's good behaviour.
- Christian distinctiveness is clearly known and reflected in the quality of the learning environment which enhances the children's attainment.

Areas to improve

- To develop a robust monitoring and evaluating programme carried out by staff, children and governors to closely monitor the impact of collective worship.
- Build the capacity and effectiveness of leadership of the school as a church school by providing relevant and effective training for staff and governors.

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

The school successfully embraces the federation partnership whilst retaining and enriching its church school distinctiveness. Relationships throughout the school between adults and children are exemplary. Stimulating, engaging and challenging teaching as set out in the school's core values approach, enables successful learning, progress and achievement. Members of staff, ably assisted by the learning mentor, provide well for the individual needs of all pupils. The firm belief that Christian values are central to daily life in school enables everyone to thrive and be successful. As a result children feel safe to make and learn from their mistakes. They understand the importance of Christian values in their own day to day life in school and beyond. Children's behaviour is exemplary. If they make the wrong choices, steps are in place to support them and guide them on to a positive path again. As a result, there have been no permanent or fixed exclusions. The school's Christian characteristics are used to work closely with the wider school community and to ensure that all children attend school regularly. Children's attendance, which is above the national average, is celebrated on a weekly basis within the celebration assembly. All children are aware and can talk about the five Christian values of the school Generosity, Truth, Respect, Forgiveness and Justice. Pupil values detectives are responsible for collating evidence of the focus value across the curriculum and during the school day. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is good and well supported across the curriculum and through the wide range of learning experiences. This contributes to all children feeling happy and supported throughout their school life. Parents feel listened to and re-assured. They say that they are made welcome and value the help and support provided by the staff. The school council is an effective pupil voice. It supports local and national charities and the children are confident and able to plan and organise school events. Children show respect for different cultures and communities through their religious education (RE) and their worship. The school gains much from its close links with the New Tribes Mission (NTM), an international evangelical Christian missionary college based at North Cotes. Children from the NTM attend the school and over the years children from all over the world have attended the school. This provides a wide and diverse multi-cultural environment, where children respect and experience each other's cultures and beliefs.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship, with Christian values at its heart, is central to the school day. As a result children leave the school with a clear understanding of Christian values readily able to make links with Biblical teaching. Significant developments in the delivery of collective worship have taken place since the last inspection. Church school values have been evaluated and they are now intrinsic to collective worship and whole school life. Staff have a clearer vision of the Christian journey being followed. As a result of evaluating the delivery and effectiveness of collective worship a new programme with structured timetable is in place. This includes the core elements of key Christian festivals, core values and celebrations within other major world faiths. Worship focuses on one of the Christian values each term. This termly focus on individual values builds on children's experiences allowing time for them to discuss and reflect on the meaning of the value. This results in each class producing a display for the hall and their classroom, giving children ownership and deepening their understanding of each value. School services are regularly held at St Nicholas Church, celebrating Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter, with a large percentage of parents attending. The vicar regularly visits the school for collective worship focussing on Jesus and his teachings and Christian values. He also delivers Holy Communion within school three times a year. In this way enabling the church to come to the children and widening their experience of Anglican belief and practice. Prayer is an important focus of worship and wider school life and all those present participate with reverence and respect. Children are able to reflect quietly on the focus of the worship and a prayer is shared echoing this focus. Staff and children pray together using, for example, the school prayer or The Lord's Prayer. Children are developing an understanding of The Trinity,

although for some this is in an early stage. Worship is reviewed by staff through regular meetings and discussions, but it is not evaluated systematically as a part of the school's development cycle. All children attend worship, which is made accessible to those of different faiths and none through the practical demonstration of values which are understood and appreciated by all. The school is in the early stages of supporting children to lead acts of worship. A representative from NTM holds a bible study session for Key Stage 2 enabling children to explore bible stories in depth. Children are able to discuss and evaluate morals behind the stories. They are involved in a variety of activities and visits throughout the school year to enrich their experience and deepen their spiritual development. Year 6 children take part in the Church Schools Festival held at Lincoln Cathedral. Year 5 and Year 6 take part in a special act of Remembrance at St Nicholas Church.

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

Since the appointment of the executive headteacher the leadership of the school, as a church school, has been revisited and refocused. As a result school leadership at all levels promotes a clear vision of the school's Christian character and values. This vision and core Christian values are embedded throughout the whole of school life driving forward the Christian distinctiveness of the school. Leadership is strong. Governors are active and supportive of the school. They are keen to develop their skills and expertise through training and support. The staff team are fully committed to the Christian vision. All are keen to undertake training and are supported and encouraged to take on responsibilities. Staff have been fully involved with the restructuring of collective worship and training has taken place for the foundation governors to review their responsibilities for church school effectiveness. The RE leader has attended several courses run by the diocese to develop the Christian distinctiveness of the school. This has enabled a robust and rigorous self-evaluation, the identification of key development needs and a clear action plan. Restructuring of the collective worship programme has led to a more focussed and structured celebration of daily worship. Leaders support all staff in teaching RE through the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus. Staff recognise this provides essential support and contributes significantly to raising the standards of teaching and learning. Parents, families and the wider community play a full and active role in the life of the school. Children are proud to share their successes with parents and are confident to talk about their learning journey. Good support is provided by the diocesan education team. Once a year, volunteers from the NTM work with staff, parents and children painting, gardening and revitalising the outside areas of the school. RE and collective worship meet statutory requirements.

SIAMS report January 2016 North Cotes Church of England Primary School, North Cotes, Grimsby DN36 5UZ