



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Tydd St Mary Church of England Primary School

Church Way
Tydd St Mary
Wisbech
Lincolnshire
PE13 5QY

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: 11 March 2016

Date of last inspection: April 2011

School's unique reference number: 120614

Headteacher: Sonya Ripley

Inspector's name and number: Roger Moore 353

School context

The school has 101 pupils mainly from a White British background and serves Tydd St Mary and nearby villages. The proportion of pupils with disabilities or special educational needs is 17% with 13% pupils taking up free school meals. Attendance, data demonstrates a 3 year rising trend, is above the national average and that of the local authority. The school is part of a small collaborative partnership of 6 primary schools. An extensive building project, including a hall extension and an additional classroom, spanning 5 years has enabled facilities to be greatly improved.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Tydd St Mary Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Christian values are embedded in every aspect of school life, resulting in a strength and quality of relationships which enable all to flourish.
- Led by an inspirational headteacher all members of the school community have a shared vision for the school which impacts strongly on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils.
- Excellent pupil engagement and attitudes towards RE leading to good knowledge and understanding of Christianity
- The leadership of the governing body and their skill and commitment to monitor and challenge enables strong support for the Christian distinctiveness of the school.

Areas to improve

- Develop religious education (RE) teaching and learning through visits and experiences to enable a deeper understanding of major world faiths and how belief impacts on the lives of others.

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

A strong Christian ethos underpins all aspects of teaching and learning, pupils' well-being and their SMSC development. Distinctively Christian values are shared and embraced by all members of the school community and are deeply embedded in the daily life of school. Termly values are agreed by staff, governors and pupils. Selected from the Values for Life programme, they help the pupils to respect and value others and create fair and positive school ethos. Staff and governors act as excellent role models for pupils, living out the Christian values at the core of the school's vision. Relationships are excellent at all levels and pupils behave very well. Pupils enjoy coming to school and attendance levels are very high. There have been no exclusions and there are no reported incidents of bullying or racism. A strong commitment to the school community by pupils, staff, governors and parents is seen in all aspects of daily life. Standards of achievement are high and pupils' achievements are celebrated by all. An emphasis is placed on a creative curriculum. As a result all pupils benefit from a wide range of activities. These foster creativity in many areas of learning including RE whilst also developing key literacy and numeracy skills. The discussion and reflection that arises has a positive impact on learning and pupil progress. RE makes a major impact on the experiences of pupils. This is evidenced by the pride they show in the class Bibles which record their journey through RE and the Christian events that are special to them. Pupils know that they are valued and this gives them the confidence to meet challenges. They take pride in their work and value the relationships they have with the staff in school. They confidently show visitors around the school and talk about the impact on the whole school community of their achievements and the many roles they undertake. Pupils leave the school confident and ready for future challenges with a strong grounding in core Christian values. All aspects of school life are embraced in a sensitive and caring way.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is clearly central to the school's Christian identity. It is of high quality and impacts strongly on pupils' spiritual and moral development. Collective worship is valued by those present and is seen to illustrate and reinforce the beliefs and Christian values proclaimed and lived out by the school. The termly focus on individual core values aids pupils' understanding and reinforces the link to the Christian story. It is further supported through the use of the Values for Life materials, links to the Church calendar and regular sharing of Biblical text. Pupils' understanding is further enhanced through materials made available for use at home. Parents find this approach to be very helpful in keeping them informed and engaged in the life of this church school. Worship is very popular with pupils, who recognise its importance in terms of praising and thanking God. They also like learning more about God and Jesus. Each occasion is held in high regard and the reverent atmosphere for prayer and reflection is seen to aid spiritual growth. All school staff, the vicar and a range of visitors are involved in leading collective worship enabling pupils to gain a wide experience. Pupils benefit from access to quiet areas for reflection time, not just in worship. Older pupils are developing their understanding about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and have a strong sense of 'God is with us'. The close links with the parish church and the regular school services and celebrations held there enrich pupils understanding of Anglican practice and belief. It also enables the school and the wider Christian community to worship together. Pupils are confident in planning and leading collective worship. They speak of how much they enjoy taking on this role and how it helps them to understand about Christianity. Collective worship is monitored by staff and governors. Outcomes are addressed through the collective worship action plan. Clear links made between collective worship, RE and SMSC development strongly enhance pupil learning and understanding.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

RE makes a significant contribution to the distinctive Christian character of the school. It is seen as an integral part of school life and is taught by a specialist teacher. Assessments show that all pupils are making at least good progress and have a broad understanding of religious beliefs and

practices. Teaching and learning is at least good with some outstanding features. Marking is effective and feedback helps the pupils to understand their next steps. Within lessons and collective worship pupils contribute well, drawing on their classroom learning and experiences. Effective delivery and differentiated curriculum together with regular monitoring ensures continuing high standards of teaching and learning across all key stages. Year 6 pupils recognise that RE increases their global and cultural awareness whilst also helping them to reflect on and deepen their own beliefs, which then influence their actions. Lessons are challenging but also fun, particularly for the younger pupils. Pupils are interested and motivated to learn. They are knowledgeable about the subject and keen to develop their skills. Teachers are particularly good at questioning older pupils and helping them to reflect at a deep level, developing analytical skills and critical thinking. The pupils are proud of their work and how it is displayed. By Year 6 pupils know key Bible stories, the life and teachings of Jesus, and can relate them to the gospel values studied. Planning for RE is in agreement with the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus. It is thorough and is closely linked to pupil progress ensuring a very good balance between learning about and learning from religions. Pupils are regularly assessed and tracking of their achievement is in place. Attainment levels and progress are discussed at pupil progress meetings. Work is scrutinised in the same way as all other subjects. RE lessons provide a programme of factual knowledge, skills and ideas, which utilise the child's own ability, experience, knowledge and understanding. Pupils are able to explore Christianity and other world faiths through developing and applying a wide range of skills. They use religious vocabulary very well. The school recognises the need to widen pupils' understanding and experience of major world religions through extending the range of visitors and visits to places of worship. RE supports pupils' spiritual and moral development very well.

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

The inspirational headteacher is a dynamic Christian leader who successfully leads the school in strengthening its Christian distinctiveness. Through her work in supporting other schools the headteacher brings substantial experience and expertise into this school. The headteacher works with vision, energy and Christian commitment to build upon a deeply embedded Christian ethos in which every person is seen as important. Governors provide very good support and challenge to the headteacher. They are fully involved in monitoring standards and integral to maintaining the Christian character of the school that ably supports the well-being of all. The school's self-evaluation is thorough and accurate and has included the views of all stakeholders. Strong governance, through monitoring and challenge is also embraced through governors' well developed understanding of the Christian distinctiveness of the school. The staff team are fully committed to this Christian vision. All are keen to undertake training and are supported to take on responsibilities. Good support is provided by the diocesan education team. Pupils, through their school council, team leader and worship leader roles are key contributors to the school's development. Parents are valued members of the school community. They are welcomed to collective worship and other school events and know that their opinions are listened to and valued. Through the leadership and vision of the headteacher RE makes a major contribution to the whole school curriculum. The areas highlighted for development from the previous inspection have been successfully addressed. Effective leadership is also demonstrated through the strong and mutually beneficial relationship with the local church and the vicar's strong support. Through his regular involvement with RE and collective worship pupils gain a good understanding of Anglican belief and practice. The school is fully involved in the wider community as illustrated through its involvement in organising events such as the St George's Day parade. RE and collective worship meet statutory requirements.

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