



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church**

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Winterton Church of England Infants' School

West Street
Winterton
Scunthorpe
DN15 9QG

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: North Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: June 2015

Date of last inspection: May 2010

School's unique reference number: 118020

Headteacher: Christina Tims

Inspector's name and number: Yvonne Shaw NS 245

School context

Winterton Church of England Infants' School is of average size situated to the north of Scunthorpe. Most of the 229 children are of White British heritage. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for the pupil premium is larger than average. The proportion of pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs is very low as is pupil mobility. The headteacher has been appointed since the last inspection and the majority of the leadership team have been appointed within the last two years.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Winterton Church of England Infants' School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- An inspirational headteacher, leading an exceptional team, whose Christian vision impacts successfully on the community the school serves.
- The Light and Spirit of Christ is palpable, enriching the work of the school enabling all to achieve well from their varying starting points.
- Outstanding care and compassion encompassed by all, underpinning the school's mission, places children and families firmly at the heart of the school's work.
- Excellent spiritual, moral, social and cultural development enables children to become confident individuals who are fully ready for their next stage in learning.

Areas to improve

- Involve the school community in monitoring activities so that all confidently articulate the school's Christian distinctiveness.
- Include all groups of learners in planning, leading and evaluating inspirational acts of worship.

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

'The school wraps itself around you' is a frequent affirmation that the Christian character and ethos in the school is a living presence and permeates every aspect of the school's life. Lively, colourful displays and highly effective classroom practice create an outstanding learning environment. Interactive RE displays, Bible quotes, prayer tables and artefacts in the foyer and hall visually express the school's Christian distinctiveness and encourage spiritual awareness. Children enter the school with skills at or below those expected for their age and leave significantly above. All pupils achieve well from their varying starting points, including those eligible to the Pupil Premium Funding. This means that they are very well prepared for the next phase of their learning. Parents commented 'I will be sad when my child leaves this school' which illustrates the love and high regard in which the school is held. All are seen as created in the image of God and valued as unique individuals who benefit from the nurturing atmosphere within a supportive Christian family environment. This is the result of an all-encompassing commitment to develop individual potential and to meet the needs of the whole child within the context of a family orientated community. Explicit Christian values are rooted in Biblical teaching and are embedded in exemplary care and excellent spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development for all children. Christian values which nurture and challenge the well-being and SMSC development of all children are continuously modelled by staff. Displays around the school proclaim the school's Christian distinctiveness. Children are provided with real life faith experiences through visits to a synagogue and the Diocesan Church School's Festival thus making faith a living reality. The children's voice is heard and their ideas for improvement listened to for example, following work on the Jewish festival of Shabbat, children asked that their dining experience mirrors a celebratory feast. Children are able to articulate the school motto 'We care' and can link this to Christian belief 'God cares for us therefore we must care for others'. They take up opportunities to participate in local, national and international fundraising. Children are keen to attend school, have high expectations and have excellent attitudes to learning. No child is excluded from school because the school lives out its mission of inclusion for all. One new parent said, 'They make us feel welcome and valued in a happy environment.' Children feel safe and happy, secure in the knowledge that diversity is acknowledged, embraced and their beliefs are respected and valued. Religious Education (RE) makes a strong impact on children's understanding of Bible stories and their relevance within their own lives. They are developing a secure understanding of other faiths. An effective school council allows them to contribute to decision making. Children are developing a secure understanding of their role as responsible citizens through participation as mini mentors and lunchtime friends. Standards of behaviour and behaviour management are exemplary due to clear guidelines and expectations which are underpinned by Christian values. The culture of praise and reward throughout the school further strengthens the child's sense of self-worth. Birthdays are distinctively marked by the singing of a hymn preceding the 'Happy Birthday' song in Celebration Assembly.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Daily worship is firmly at the centre of the school day. It is inclusive, relevant and is based on Bible teaching and the person of Jesus Christ. This fully sustains and enhances the school community's Christian values. It further strengthens the school's motto 'We care'. The centrality of daily worship ensures that it makes a substantial impact and contribution to the life of the school and the individuals within it. Staff regularly attend and participate in acts of worship. Children enjoy their daily worship time. This is seen with the way in which they reverently enter the hall, participate and support each other. Attitudes to worship are very good because the thematic approach is rooted in Christian beliefs and festivals that relate to the pupils' own experience and meets their needs. Aspects of the Trinity are taught and are appropriately age related. Children engage in prayers and are keen to be able to read their prayers aloud during worship. This feature of children's lives is being fully enhanced by the cycle of worship planning which is allowing children to understand the importance of prayer in their own lives. Aspects of personal and collective prayer are effectively developed through encouraging children to make a cross with their thumbs when they place their hands together, through 'Share A Prayer' and the use of prayer trees. Visual

images are expertly used to enhance spiritual development, awe and wonder. Examples of these images are the lighted candle, dimmed lights and models of Faith, Hope and Love. Children's spiritual development is deepened by being provided with opportunities to reflect during worship, given guidance if needed and through the use of carefully chosen music to support spiritual reflection. Collective worship themes are followed up when children are back in their classes which is providing excellent support and guidance for dealing with emotions and worries. Children are introduced to Christian sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist at a level appropriate to their ages. The impact of the closure All Saints Church over recent months due to renovation has been significant. The strength of the community relationships across other churches has sustained and supported leaders in ensuring strong inter-church and community links are maintained. Clergy from the Anglican and Methodist Churches regularly attend the school and lead acts of worship as does the Bishop's visitor. Some children are involved in planning acts of worship but currently this is restricted to the school council and on occasions, Year 2 children. Children do not have sufficient opportunities to support leaders in monitoring acts of worship.

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

The inspirational headteacher, motivated by her personal faith and determination to treat every individual as made in the image of God, has worked with rigour, energy and commitment to develop an explicit Christian vision. All leaders, including the governing body, fully uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school. The unity of the leadership team has contributed significantly to the success of the school since the last inspection through continuous, focused improvement. Leaders have ensured strategic professional development and succession planning in the very recent past and this is ensuring that the school is well placed for yet further improvement. The governors expertly led by the long standing chair, are particularly active in the strategic drive to improve academic progress, well-being and to develop the Christian distinctiveness. They fully challenge senior leaders to account for individual achievement, placing the child at the heart of their decision making. Monitoring activities do not yet fully reflect at every level the monitoring and evaluating of the school's progress as a church school. All stakeholders understand and ensure that the distinctive Christian values and ethos pervades all actions and are vital to the school's vision. Addressing foci for development from the last inspection, there is now a much stronger sense of unity and collaborative working with other schools, some of whom have implemented aspects of Winterton Infants' collective worship. Additionally, transition arrangements have improved to ensure children are confident in their next steps in education and to develop their faith beyond their time at Winterton Infants' School. Effective systems for monitoring and evaluating the school's impact on academic achievement are in place. This validates that all groups of pupils make very good progress from their varying starting points. RE teaching and learning is extremely well led and managed across the school by the recently appointed subject leader. School development plans include RE as a priority. Evaluation of RE, through a range of activities, is excellent. However, this is not always used effectively when evaluating the school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England school. Governors and staff have accessed training opportunities for leadership roles through diocesan courses and the chair of governors uses her expertise to deliver some Diocesan training. Parents are proud of the school and they say that the school is very supportive: issues are dealt with quickly and efficiently. Although the parents spoken to during inspection could not fully articulate the school's core values beyond 'We care', they were fully aware that there is 'something different' and that staff are 'very accommodating'. Parents agreed that the Christian, caring, compassionate ethos of the school was 'hard to miss'. Parents believe their children's needs are being very well met. They appreciate the many sporting, enrichment and extra-curricular activities as well as classroom learning. The school makes an overwhelming commitment to care for the whole family with considerable investment in pastoral support.