



## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### St Anne's Church of England Primary School

Harrowby Road  
Grantham  
Lincolnshire  
NG31 9ED

**Previous SIAMS grade: Good**

**Current inspection grade: Outstanding**

**Diocese: Lincoln**

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: 29 April 2015

Date of last inspection: June 2010

School's unique reference number: 120522

Headteacher: Jonathan Austin

Inspector's name and number: Jackie Sheldrake 255

#### School context

St Anne's Church of England Primary School is slightly smaller than the average sized primary school. The 207 pupils live mainly in the neighbourhood surrounding the school although an increasing number come from areas throughout the town. The large majority of pupils are from a White British background. An increasing number speak English as an additional language. The number of pupils in receipt of pupil premium is below average. The proportion of pupils supported by school action plus and those who have statements of special educational need is below average.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Anne's as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The leadership and commitment of the headteacher is well supported by staff and governors. It is successful in providing an inclusive and happy environment for learning rooted in distinctive Christian values.
- The focus on pupils' spiritual and personal well-being, alongside the provision of high quality of teaching and learning is excellent.
- The deeply inclusive and welcoming environment where outstanding relationships and behaviour reflect deep understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- High quality collective worship and religious education (RE), much enjoyed by pupils, highlights and reinforces the Christian foundation of the school.

#### Areas to improve

- Widen governor involvement in monitoring and evaluating the provision and outcome for collective worship. This includes the observations and evaluations of pupils, staff and parents.
- Provide a developmental process for pupil involvement in devising, leading and evaluating worship. This ensures they acquire the confidence and skills to lead both

planned and spontaneous worship.

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

Christian values are lived out and celebrated in all areas of shared life within this happy, safe and inclusive school. This experience, and the excellent role model of adults in school, clearly makes a deep and lasting impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. From a young age pupils are able to reflect and talk of their understanding of the school's core values, giving illustration of the impact made on their lives and those of others. They are equally able to explore them through knowledge of Biblical stories and the life and example of Jesus. Reflecting on life in a school without the agreed values, they say 'learning would be the same'. They go on to say, 'without compassion the way we act would be different'. 'Without forgiveness our friendships wouldn't last for long.' Pupils appreciate and trust the staff and the warm family feel of the school. They enjoy their time in school. The increased focus on pupils' personal well-being, alongside the provision of high quality of teaching and learning, is making a significant impact on pupil progress. Across the school levels of achievement have risen and are now high in relation to local and national levels of attainment. Pupils' progress is at least good for all groups and often outstanding. Behaviour throughout the school and relationships between all groups are outstanding. Pupils and staff treat each other and visitors with the utmost respect and consideration for their needs. This is so within the classroom, in gatherings of the whole school and in informal interactions around the school and on the playground. A nurturing culture, together, with a sensitivity of approach provides well for pupils and enables those newly arrived to settle quickly and to flourish. The school makes good use of its environment to celebrate its Christian foundation and to nurture the SMSC development of pupils. The development of areas of reflection within the school and grounds will further support this. Throughout the school there is repeated evidence of an appreciation and celebration of children's achievements. This is equally so for academic, sporting and musical achievement gained both in and out of school. Praise and celebration is also received by those exemplifying the values of the school and for contributing to the current high levels of attendance. RE makes a strong contribution to pupils' SMSC development and enriches the school's Christian distinctiveness. In a safe environment where 'all opinions matter' RE enables pupils to explore their own and others' beliefs and values. Pupils have a clear understanding of Christianity as a multicultural world faith and show understanding of, and respect for, diverse communities. By Year 6 inspirational teaching in RE enables pupils to reflect and respond to a mature level on difficult questions of life. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school and greatly value the care that their children receive. They recognise the positive impact of the school's core values on their children's attitudes and actions and value the close links with the church.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Collective worship is a joyous time of celebration and praise. It is greatly valued and recognised by all to be a major focus of life in school. It is of high quality and makes an outstanding contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development, celebrating the Christian character of the school. Parents acknowledge this speaking of their children's growing understanding of Christian values and their efforts to follow these ideals in everyday life. Biblical text and stories from a range of sources explore spiritual and moral issues including the life and teachings of Jesus. Themes exploring Christian values are well thought-out and skilfully delivered capturing and sustaining the interest of those present. Music and high quality singing adds much to the enjoyment and spiritual dimension of each occasion. Prayer, silence and reflection are daily experiences. Pupils understand each to be important elements of worship, expressing thoughts on silence as 'I like it. I can think back to what I have done and try to make things better.' Pupils have a good understanding of The Trinity. 'God the Father is in heaven, God the Holy Spirit is all around and God the Son is right with us, helping us in our life.' The attendance of all pupils and staff, and at times parents and governors, reinforces the

strong sense of community and the impact of each occasion. Pupils are attentive listeners and willing helpers in the delivery of worship. They, their parents and community members, enjoy the regular celebration assemblies in which pupils play a significant part. However, the school acknowledges that enabling pupils to devise, lead and evaluate worship will increase their confidence to deliver worship that is both planned and spontaneous. Pupils' opinions on worship are gathered and are seen to impact on future development. Since the previous inspection collaboration with the parish church and clergy has increased in a number of areas of school life. The regular contributions to collective worship by the vicar and fellow church workers are much enjoyed. This, together with school services held in church, enables those present to gain good understanding of Anglican practice and belief.

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

The vision and commitment of the headteacher, governors and senior staff to sustain and enrich the Christian foundation of the school is outstanding. Together and with the support of all staff they have successfully promoted and realised an ethos grounded in Christian values. These values are defined, understood and promoted by pupils, staff, governors and parents. The headteacher and foundation governors ensure the work of the school as a church school is kept under review. This process has valued and built on the achievements of the past and successfully addressed all areas of development from the previous denominational inspection. Governor involvement in monitoring and evaluating the impact of collective worship is widening to include the experiences and views of all those present. The focus of school self-evaluation is on providing high quality teaching and learning opportunities which meet the needs of all pupils' academic and personal needs. This has impacted strongly on standards of achievement enabling levels of progress to significantly increase hand in hand with pupils' sense of well-being. Collective worship and RE are of high quality and meet statutory requirements. Through the leadership of the headteacher they enjoy high status within the whole curriculum and are effectively managed and delivered. Members of staff are equally valued and work with commitment as a united and happy team. On-going professional development and leadership opportunities are made available as appropriate for all staff and governors. School leaders make good use of the support offered by the diocesan education team. This enables governors and staff to gain a deeper understanding of the issues involved in leading and managing a church school. These development opportunities ensure the necessary skills base for present and future school growth. Foundation governors are closely involved with the life of the school, each delivering collective worship and working with the headteacher advocating and strengthening the spiritual dimension of the curriculum and the close ties with the church. Pupils speak with pride of their contributions to the life of the school and to supporting charities within local and regional and worldwide communities. Parents recognise the positive impact of the school's core values on their children's attitudes and actions and value the close links with the church and local community.