



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Eye Church of England Primary School

Eyebury Road
Eye
Peterborough
PE6 7TD

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Good

Diocese: Peterborough

Local authority: Peterborough

Date of inspection: 23 June 2016

Date of last inspection: June 2011

School's unique reference number: 110825

Headteacher: Jason Webster

Inspector's name and number: Revd Douglas Spenceley 368

School context

Eye is a larger than average voluntary controlled primary school. Most pupils are of White British heritage. Ethnic minority groups are similar in proportion to the national average. Just under 10% speak English as a second language. The proportion of pupils with additional needs is lower than average nationally. The headteacher took up post in April 2015. Since then the structure of senior leadership has been reorganised, including the appointment of a senior teacher with responsibility for developing the school's distinctiveness as a church school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Eye CE Primary as a Church of England school are good

- The inspirational leadership of the headteacher and senior staff is resulting in rapid development of all aspects of school life and its Christian distinctiveness.
- Links between school and St Matthew's Church are strong and of mutual benefit especially to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.
- Parents are supportive and value highly the way the school roots itself in Christian values, enabling their children to develop skills to make good moral decisions.

Areas to improve

- Extend formal monitoring and evaluation of collective worship to include its impact on pupils and use this to inform future planning.
- Encourage pupils of all ages to prepare and lead collective worship in school.
- Ensure that the Christian nature of school's values is made explicit in public documentation including policies.

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

Pupils enjoy coming to school and are proud of it. The challenging messages they receive from the Christian values they are taught and see modelled by adults in school have a good impact in their daily lives. They show this in their excellent behaviour, relationships, attitudes, efforts to work hard and make good progress and in their attendance. Attainment and rates of progress have improved markedly during this year. Pupils in Year 2 and Year 6 are on target to reach, and in many instances exceed, the required standards. Pupils appreciate the light, airy and well-cared for environment. Pupils comment with good understanding on the recently painted mural in the dining hall, with the church very prominent, the colourful displays and the growing number of 'values' banners in the hall. They speak with confidence about the significance of Christian symbols and Biblical texts which are seen throughout the school. A young pupil noted that the cross shows that 'Jesus died so that we can know him with us always'. In all classrooms, regularly changing displays focus on the current Christian value. The displays link with what pupils learn in religious education (RE) and collective worship. Pupils' SMSC development and their growing ability to make balanced moral judgements are good. Through the teaching of RE and in collective worship teachers encourage pupils to think and reflect. As a result, pupils openly confront the 'big' questions of life, relationships and community. Pupils of all ages are comfortable talking about faith and spiritual issues. They eagerly share how the visitors from other faiths and communities teach them what they believe and how they live. As a result, pupils are developing good insights and respect for the opinions and culture of our diverse communities. Pupils' practical response to what they learn in worship and RE is their engagement in community activities and fundraising for local and international charities. Parents are vocal in their praise of the revitalised school, many of whom comment on how the renewed focus on the Christian distinctiveness of the school has had a positive impact on their children's development. Parents are very complimentary about the approachability and caring nature of the headteacher and staff.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Pupils clearly enjoy worship. They engage with it enthusiastically. They confidently join in the liturgy, which sets the tone for each act of worship. Most pupils understand the symbolism of candle, cross, Bible and the changing colours of the liturgical season. Careful planning and leading of worship enables pupils to develop their understanding of the school's Christian values and reflect on their impact on them. All worship includes suitable Biblical references, often teaching about the life and parables of Jesus who 'tells stories to help us live our lives.' Pupils have a growing understanding of the Trinity. They look forward to the weekly visits of the vicar or curate, who set the current Christian value in its Biblical context. Pupils know a range of modern worship and praise songs, singing them joyfully and respectfully, with spontaneous actions. They are heard sometimes singing them spontaneously at home. Pupils see prayer as 'talking to God'. The Lord's Prayer is included in each act of worship, together with a prayer from the Prayer Box, which pupils have written. The school celebrates Christian festivals during the year in St Matthew's Church, for which pupils prepare and lead worship. However, there are few opportunities for pupils of all ages to prepare and lead worship in school. The Church Schools Group, comprising governors, the parish priest, staff and parents, engages in strategic planning and monitoring of the school as a church school. Monitoring of collective worship has led to some important changes to collective worship, which school has implemented successfully. The regular formal pupil evaluations do not invite comments about how the worship has changed or affected them. However, impact of collective worship on pupils is evident in conversation. It clearly causes pupils to reflect on their own spiritual growth and respect for the faith and views of others. A typical remark from a Year 3 pupil is 'Trust in God, even if you can't see him'. A Year 6 pupil reflected, 'If someone has a different belief, it doesn't mean it's right or wrong, it's their choice'.

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

The school has experienced rapid development in all aspects since April 2015 under the inspirational and determined leadership of the headteacher and senior leaders. The school is being effective in articulating and promoting its Christian values and vision. However, the Christian nature of values is not immediately apparent in public documentation, including policies. Formal monitoring and evaluations are the remit of the recently formed Church Schools Group, which works with senior staff and reports to the governing body. The group has yet to evaluate the relationship between this renewed focus on Christian values and the rapid improvement in pupil attainments and progress. The school has successfully addressed all the focus for development points from the last inspection: a) assessment in RE is now in line with other school assessment systems, resulting in more detailed monitoring of attainment and progress; b) a regular programme of visits and visitors from diverse communities has had a significant positive impact on pupil perceptions and c) following re-arrangement of seating in the hall pupils engage more easily with the worship leader. Management of RE and collective worship is effective. Collective worship and RE both meet statutory requirements and RE complies with the National Society's Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education. The school self-evaluation is accurate. Staff are encouraged to take relevant training opportunities in preparation for future leadership of church schools where appropriate. For example, the RE co-ordinator regularly attends RE network meetings and training in RE leadership. There are very close and active links between St Matthew's Church and school. The vicar is highly regarded by all for his effective work in developing and maintaining these links. All staff engage well with parents, being available on a daily basis to deal with concerns. The school encourages parents to leave comments and suggestions on their parent voice facility, and responds promptly to them. The school recognises the need to develop closer links with the diocese. Pupils regularly engage in activities in and for the community, raising money for local and global charities.

SIAMS report June 2016 Eye Church of England Primary School Eye PE6 7TD