



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Chad's Church of England (Controlled) Nursery and Infant School

Gordon Road
Derby
DE23 6WR

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: 25 June 2014

Date of last inspection: 1 April 2009

School's unique reference number: 112873

Headteacher: Maxine Bull

Inspector's name and number: John Horwood 177

School context

The school is a smaller than average primary school for children aged 4–7. Most pupils speak English as an additional language and come from a wide range of cultural and faith backgrounds. The proportion of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs is above the national average. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is above the national average. St Chad's is part of the Walbrook Epiphany Team Ministry and the school joins in worship at St. Augustine's Church.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Chad's Nursery and Infant School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The school successfully promotes Christian values of love, friendship and care with the whole community by having an 'open door' policy and welcoming parents into the school at the start of the day. This has an outstanding impact on creating a family atmosphere within the school which enables every pupil to develop both their personal and academic skills.
- Christian values are the foundation of school life. The headteacher leads by example in living them out and celebrating their impact. She is well supported by all staff who all promote Christian values in a sensitive and effective way that is acceptable to every child and family within this multi-faith school. As a result, pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding.
- The excellent partnership with the church community ensures that pupils gain a good understanding of both Christianity and other faiths. This has also ensured that pupils have an awareness of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Areas to improve

- Increase the opportunities for pupils to take on more responsibility associated with collective worship.

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

This is an inclusive school where all adults lead by example in valuing, promoting and living out Christian values. The start of the day is a vibrant and productive period with parents bringing children into school and many spending a short time in the classroom with them. Parents comment about the loving and caring welcome they see when they bring their children to school. There are excellent relationships within the whole school community as a result of the mutual respect amongst adults and pupils. This contributes to high attendance and the absence of exclusions because pupils are happy at school. Every pupil is supported extremely well in both their academic and personal development. Pupils' attitudes and behaviour are outstanding. This allows pupils to make strong progress in their work and extra help is provided to those who need it. Leaders promote unity exceptionally well through ensuring that equal opportunities are provided throughout the school. Love, care, respect and fairness permeate the school with all pupils encouraged to 'aim high' throughout the day. The values and understanding promoted within religious education lessons make an outstanding contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. There is a strong focus on Christianity and pupils have an exceptional understanding of Christianity being a multi-cultural world faith. Even at such a young age they show a good knowledge and respect for differences in a wide range of faiths. Pupils say they enjoy religious education and during the inspection the strong impact of spiritual development was seen during a lesson about a Bible story. Pupils are confident in expressing their views about their faith and the values promoted within the school. They are consulted about the impact of religious education lessons through questionnaires. The pride of the school in its Christian character is demonstrated by the celebration of pupils' work around the school. The care it provides for pupils well-being was seen by the way the whole school community join in an exercise period every morning. The school community is well aware of and celebrates the school being a church school and its links to St Augustine's Church. Pupils talk confidently about all aspects of the school. Pupils serve their community through activities, for example, as members of the school council. Pupils' achievements are further celebrated through the Children's University for which the school is a lead school. They also enthusiastically support a range of charities both locally and internationally.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The school's collective worship policy identifies the main aim of collective worship being to offer the whole school - children and staff - the opportunity to gather together to engage in a variety of activities, including prayer and quiet reflection time, which may lead them to the threshold of worship based on the Anglican principles on which worship is based. All pupils and staff attend collective worship daily and all participate fully. Pupils with special educational needs are supported in an exceptionally caring way during collective worship so that they can attend for as long as possible. The school provides a rich and meaningful experience of worship by welcoming a range of people to lead worship. These include school staff, members of the local clergy and a range of external visitors. Many of the songs involve actions which pupils and staff join in with making the impact of collective worship more memorable as well as contributing to their spiritual growth. The planning and preparation of collective worship are thorough with a two-year collective worship cycle including both Christian festivals and those from other faiths. Regular monitoring and review of collective worship is carried out by members of the leadership team, foundation governors and clergy. This has, for example, led to an increased focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Year 2 pupils were able to speak with some confidence about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Parents spoke favourably about the sensitivity with which collective worship is promoted and this is confirmed by no pupils being withdrawn from collective worship. The collective worship seen during the inspection was based on the theme 'aiming high' and sensitively explained some of the differences and

similarities between Christianity and the Muslim faith. This had a strong impact on pupils' cultural and spiritual development. Pupils can recall collective worships and can talk about who led them and why they enjoyed them. They talk confidently about the visits to the church and how visitors from the church regularly lead collective worship in school. They have developed outstanding relationships with the local clergy. Pupils have opportunities to write prayers and some have opportunities to lead parts of worship. The school recognises that pupil involvement in planning and leading collective worship is an area they want to develop and are discussing the creation of a collective worship club. The school is one of the first schools in Derby to develop a prayer space which pupils can use when they need to reflect and pray. In addition to collective worship in school there are now regular visits to St Augustine's Church for services and these are attended by an increasing number of parents. The church services help develop pupils' understanding of Christian traditions and festivals. Pupils' work in their RE books shows a strong link between RE and collective worship and that they understand the importance of faith traditions.

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

The Christian faith and vision of the headteacher have an outstanding impact on the school ethos, pupils' well-being and their achievement. She leads by example in promoting the school as an outstanding church school based on her strong faith. She ensures that Christian values permeate throughout the school activities and support the development of every pupil to their full ability, regardless of their faith and culture. This has led to pupils making excellent progress in all aspects of their academic and personal skills. Leaders have a secure and accurate understanding of the school's performance and distinctiveness based on an accurate self-evaluation of the school as a church school. They can clearly demonstrate that, whilst focusing on the whole child and the needs of the community, they have maintained high standards. Leaders, staff and governors work as a strong and united team to ensure that this is an outstanding church school. The partnerships with the foundation governors and the church community are excellent. They work together for the mutual benefit of pupils and the local multi-cultural community. Foundation governors are experienced, dedicated and actively involved with the school. Pupils understand the wider communities and follow the worldwide mission of the church by supporting charities both local and global. To develop future potential leaders of Church schools there is a strong focus on professional development of all staff and a comprehensive range of training is carried out. Much of this is through excellent links with the diocese. Leaders give high priority to supporting the leadership of collective worship and religious education so that it is appropriate to a multi-cultural community within a church school. Parents spoken to during the inspection were all very pleased with the school and the values it promotes.

SIAMS report June 2014 St Chad's Church of England Nursery and Infant School, Derby, DE23 6WR