



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### **Netherseal St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Main Street  
Netherseal  
DE12 8BZ

#### **Diocese: Derby**

Local authority: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: 2 October 2014

Date of last inspection: 12 November 2009

School's unique reference number: 112814

Headteacher: Sue Hart

Inspector's name and number: John Horwood 177

#### **School context**

This is a small rural primary school, to the south of Derby, with 64 pupils. An increasing number of pupils come from beyond the local area. Most pupils come from White British backgrounds. Pupils are taught within three mixed-age classes in the school. The proportion of disadvantaged pupils is below the national average. The church of St Peter is near to the school.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Netherseal St Peter's CE Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding**

- The headteacher leads by example. Her strong faith and her determination that every child should succeed ensure equal opportunities and the absence of any discrimination within this improving school.
- Adults promote Christian values, such as forgiveness and wisdom, extremely well and ensure that pupils develop into mature, sensible and caring individuals whose behaviour is outstanding.
- Pupils' excellent response to the Christian values promoted within the school impact on their attitudes to learning, the progress they make and the relationships and mutual respect within the school.
- The headteacher, the Rector and the foundation governor have developed an excellent partnership between the church and the school. This contributes greatly to pupils' understanding of Anglican traditions.

#### **Areas to improve**

- Provide more opportunities for pupils to learn about and visit places of worship for an increased range of Christian denominations.

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

The whole school community benefit from the Christian values which permeate everything within the school and are promoted by the strong faith of the head teacher. These values are recognised throughout the day by staff, pupils and parents. They are supported by displays of pupils' work and Christian artefacts around the school and by the curriculum. Their impact is seen, for example, in the outstanding behaviour of pupils. The Christian character of the school is reflected in the caring and friendly ethos within the school. . It is also reflected in the pride pupils have in the school. The headteacher leads by example in ensuring the care and well-being of pupils is of the highest standard, by welcoming parents and children on to the playground in the mornings and always finding time to respond to any questions from parents. This contributes to the excellent school/parent partnership. This also develops trust and respect between the school and families who have nothing but praise for the school. Pupils' achievement is celebrated within the weekly celebration assemblies. Christian fellowship is demonstrated by the school and parents working together to encourage attendance which is well above average. The Christian ethos within the school, where every pupil is valued as an individual, ensures that pupils of all abilities are able to achieve well in lessons. This is evident in the elimination of gaps between the achievement of disadvantaged pupils and their classmates. Pupils say they learn well because teachers respect them and make lessons fun. This is shown by the high standards and at least good progress being made by all pupils. All adults set very good examples to pupils and this promotes mutual respect. A visiting member of staff from another school had written that she had never met more polite and well-behaved children. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding for their age and pupils get on very well together. Pupils learn and understand about Christianity being a multi-cultural world faith and about the links to other faiths. The school has developed excellent links with a school with a high multi-cultural mix of pupils to develop pupils' awareness of diversity and to prepare pupils for their future life. Pupils talk confidently about RE lessons in which they demonstrate a good knowledge of the Bible and Christianity. Pupils' work shows that lessons provide strong support for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development with, for example, explanations of the meaning of Bible stories.

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

Collective worship is an important part of the day. This is reflected in the pupils' ability to talk confidently about the wide range of experiences they have of worship. They recognise the benefit they gain by visiting the local church for special thanksgiving services and show excitement in relating the content of worship led by a wide range of visitors. The church services in particular have helped pupils have a good understanding, appropriate to their age, of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Daily worship takes place either on a whole school basis or within the classroom. Whole-school worship is generally led by the headteacher, the Rector or a visitor and attended by all staff. It has an excellent impact on teachers who then develop the themes during subsequent class worship. All this ensures that pupils benefit from a range of settings and extend their knowledge of Anglican traditions. Within the limits of a small building with no school hall the provision for worship is excellent. One of the visitors is from the local Baptist church but there are no visitors from other denominations. Collective worship is coordinated by the headteacher in liaison with the foundation governor. It is planned in accordance with the collective worship policy and 'special moments' or 'what did not go as well as expected' are recorded in a monitoring book. The improved planning and monitoring since the previous inspection has helped make worship more enjoyable and meaningful for pupils, particularly by motivating them through greater involvement. Pupils and adults join in collective worship with enthusiasm and this supports ongoing strong and positive relationships. Pupils are proud of having prayer as part of their daily life. They confirm that worship has a strong focus on Jesus and on Bible stories and understand how this helps develop their values. For example, they could articulate how the parable of the wise and

foolish builders related to building firm foundations in school at the start of the school year. Their sensitivity to others is visible in the way they talk about people from the nearby Cheshire home and how a recent bequest from one resident had funded an arbour where pupils can reflect and pray quietly. Pupils' thankfulness is demonstrated by their enjoyment of singing which is of high quality and in which they eagerly join. Their behaviour and their attitudes to worship are outstanding. The impact of the worship is demonstrated by the way pupils adopt Christian values and, for example, support a little girl in an orphanage in India.

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

The headteacher, the Chair of the Governing Body and the foundation governor are passionate about the importance of Christianity to support every pupil. They work together to define the strategic direction of the school. They are very well supported in their work by all the staff and members of the governing body. The Rector regularly leads worship and provides both spiritual and pastoral support to the school community. The strong links with the church community supports pupils' understanding of Anglican traditions through regular visits to the church and joint charity fund raising. Other contributions made by the church community include running craft workshops for pupils and parents as well as collecting 'supermarket tokens' to procure school resources. Leaders show excellent concern and care for pupils and their families to ensure that pupils can achieve to their full potential. They lead by example in promoting the school as a church school where Christian values are the foundation of all activities. This has led to improved, and now high, performance in all aspects of pupils' academic and personal development. The leaders' self-evaluation of the school as a church school is accurate and is fully supported by the inspection evidence. This demonstrates that leaders have a secure and accurate understanding of the school's performance and distinctiveness. They can clearly demonstrate that, whilst focusing on the whole child and the needs of the community, they have raised standards. The school has a strong commitment to Christian stewardship, supporting a range of charities local, national and international. This helps pupils develop their understanding of the needs of others in a wider cultural context. The foundation governor is dedicated and actively involved with the school and helps pupils understand about wisdom and service. To develop future potential leaders of church schools there is a strong focus on professional development of all staff. This was successful for the current headteacher who was appointed from within the school. There is a stable staff and all teachers are given opportunities for staff development. There is good support and guidance from the diocese. Leaders recognise the important contribution that RE makes within the school and it is coordinated by the headteacher. Parents' support is demonstrated by their positive responses to the school surveys. There is good attendance at achievement assemblies and at special services held in the church.

SIAMS report October 2014 Netherseal St Peter's VC Primary School, Netherseal, DE12 8BZ