



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Fritchley Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Church Street
Fritchley
Belper
Derbyshire
DE56 2FQ

Previous SIAMS grade: Satisfactory

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: 5 December 2014

Date of last inspection: 26 May 2010

School's unique reference number: 112880

Headteacher: Karin Baker

Inspector's name and number: Alison Woodhouse 777

School context

Fritchley Primary School is a small school with 65 pupils on roll of which almost all are of white British heritage. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for the pupil premium is below the national average as is the number of pupils with special educational needs. The Headteacher has been in post for just under a year following a period of difficulty and there are currently three classes in school. The modern school building provides spacious facilities including the outdoor areas. St. Mary's Church is a fifteen minute walk from the school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Fritchley as a Church of England school are good

- The new headteacher has worked hard in a short space of time to ensure the school's distinctive Christian character is clearly known and valued by the school community.
- Collective worship is a core part of the school's daily life, contributing significantly to pupil's spiritual development.
- Religious Education makes a good contribution to children's understanding of the Christian faith.
- A strong and developing Christian vision is evident in the nurture and care for everyone within the school community.

Areas to improve

- Enable children to plan, lead and evaluate acts of collective worship on a regular basis.
- Ensure standards in RE are monitored in line with other core subjects.

- Increase opportunities for reflection, including outdoor areas allowing everyone to have greater opportunities for personal prayer and reflection.

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

The ethos and vision at Fritchley is supported by a set of clear Christian values, which have been shaping the work of the school since the headteacher took up her post in January 2014. The school's aim has a clear commitment to creating a 'Christian environment, promoting a respect and tolerance for each other, our local community and the wider world.' All those connected with the school fully understand and embrace this commitment meaning the focus for development from the last inspection 'Involve all stakeholders in understanding and developing the spiritual life of the school' has been fully met. This has created an atmosphere of trust in school where pupils know that Christian values are an intrinsic part of expectations of behaviour. The impact of this is a distinctively Christian ethos ensuring the every child is nurtured to reach their full potential and the academic progress made by pupils is good. Relationships between learners and adults are excellent. Children have good levels of self-esteem and relate co-operatively towards others. They know that their views are considered and taken seriously. This is due to the introduction and development of Christian values being shared with pupils in collective worship and throughout the curriculum. The impact of this is that pupils can discuss values and how to live them out in terms of their behaviours. The understanding of Anglican traditions is supported by the strong links with the local church, this coupled with a Sikh teacher leading worship weekly has ensured pupils have a high degree of understanding and respect for diversity and other faith communities. Parents spoke highly of the school as a church school and the new practices in place. They particularly like the Christian values linked to behaviour and were encouraged by the fact that this was something their children discussed at home with them.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship stands at the heart of the school's ethos. Acts of worship are well run and engaging. There is full interaction between pupils, staff and parents, and this is aided by the use of events such as 'messy church'. Older pupils lead the greeting and the sending thus enabling them to make a personal connection with collective worship through this leadership role. Staff and clergy also take their turn in leading worship in school and pupils said that they benefit from the different approaches. Since the arrival of the new headteacher the opportunities to visit the local church has increased and this is supported by the church providing the transport to make this possible. Both pupils and their parents appreciate this additional perspective to worship. Parents commented positively on the new approach to collective worship, saying 'the new time of 9.00 a.m. enables us to attend,' and 'we enjoy seeing what worship is about and how the children get involved.' All stakeholders agree that collective worship is a very important part of the school day and is central to fostering the school's Christian values. A clear policy states that 'worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as the Trinity.' Prayer is evident not only in the prayers during collective worship but also the importance of the family grace at lunchtime. At this time pupils are proud to sit in their teams and a different team has their Grace read out each day. This is having a positive impact on developing spirituality within the school community. Themes reflect Anglican practice as major festivals within the Christian year are marked but equally the church year is inherent throughout the collective worship plan and key events. Links with the local Church are good and because it is not always possible to visit the church, school host many activities. This is evident in collective worship planning and 'messy church' ideas. One parent said 'it's like a family, with church within the school.' The evaluation of the impact of worship on the pupils is in its infancy and the school recognises the need to 'develop the role of children in writing prayers and using them in worship.'

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Religious education (RE) makes a significant contribution to the development of children's knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. The curriculum follows the current diocesan guidance and makes good use of the locally agreed syllabus. It is predominantly Christian based, reflecting the school's Christian character, at the same time as giving due weight to other faiths. Additional ideas are incorporated to enhance children's knowledge and understanding of the relevance of faith in today's world. Standards in teaching of all subjects has been a focus for the school for the last year and all lessons, including RE are now deemed to be good or better. The previous inspection point: 'Invest in training for RE' has been addressed and the school recognises that the next step is to introduce rigorous monitoring of this subject. This is because there is currently a lack of regular assessment of RE. The school has a good, clear RE policy and lessons seen were all at least good in terms of teaching and learning. All were well presented with good pace, pertinent use of visual stimuli and appropriate differentiation and all engaged the pupils. As well as RE, meditation was observed during the inspection. This, alongside the RE curriculum contributes well to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness. The understanding of other faith communities is enhanced by a member of staff who is of Sikh faith. She is an invaluable resource to the school and is in the process of building genuine links with a school in India, as a place she visits every year. Her input contributes to the children's understanding and appreciation of faiths, cultures and traditions different from their own. The subject leader, with the support of the headteacher, has worked hard and successfully to raise the profile of the subject and its focus in school improvement planning. Since the new headteacher took up her post the RE leader is well supported to introduce new initiatives and evaluate the impact of RE.

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

Leadership of the school is positive and is rooted in explicit Christian values. Governors have a strong commitment to the school's Christian foundation. This effective new leadership of the school ensures that the school's Christian values and ethos are at the forefront of all new initiatives. This is illustrated in the school's mission statement and included in policies and documentation. The impact of this is that the school's Christian foundation is explicit in all aspects of school relationships, thus creating many opportunities for pupils to observe excellent role models. Adults have high expectations of behaviour, care and respect for the individual, all of which are strong features of the school. The headteacher in partnership with the governors ensure that appropriate support, encouragement and challenge are given to the RE and collective worship coordinator who is confident and effective in carrying out her role. A recent survey of parents has ensured that their opinions have been heard and valued. This has strengthened links in the wider community with one parent commenting that 'there is now a calmer atmosphere and everyone works together.' Links with the local church are good resulting in staff feeling valued and appreciated with a strong team spirit in evidence. Governors and church members have been central in developing areas for prayer and reflection meaning the previous development point 'to provide stimulating opportunities and areas for reflection around school,' has been addressed inside the school building. However, this has not been developed to the same extent in the outside environment. With Christian foundations now firmly in place the new headteacher has ensured that Fritchley is well placed to develop and grow as a Church of England school.

SIAMS report December 2014 Fritchley Aided Primary School, Fritchley, Derbyshire DE56 2FQ