



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Dove Holes Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hallsteads
Dove Holes
Buxton
SK17 8BJ

Previous SIAS grade: Good

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: 21 January 2016

Date of last inspection: 24 March 2011

School's unique reference number: 112809

Headteacher: Jenny Allin

Inspector's name and number: Alison Woodhouse 777

School context

Dove Holes Primary school is a small school with 73 pupils on roll of which almost all are of white British heritage. There are currently three mixed aged classes. Attendance is good and in line with the national average. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for the pupil premium is around a quarter with the number of pupils with special educational needs being slightly above with the national average. The school building has undergone a number of projects with plans in place to improve the outdoor areas. St. Paul's Church is adjacent to the school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Dove Holes as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Leadership at all levels, including the headteacher, governors, and teachers, have worked together well so that the school's Christian distinctiveness is clearly known and valued.
- Collective worship is an integral part of the school day where everyone feels involved and valued.
- The quality of relationships with parents and the parish provides a positive Christian impact in the wider community.

Areas to improve

- Extend the provision beyond the school building for quiet reflection and prayer.
- Increase the pupils' knowledge and experience of other cultures and faith communities.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the

needs of all learners

Each pupil is clearly valued and individual needs are recognised and addressed within a supportive Christian ethos. The school's distinctive Christian character is visible in the school logo and clearly known and valued by the school community. Christian values are made explicit and are embedded in all aspects of school life. The impact of this is that pupil's wellbeing is at the heart of the school ensuring that they have a positive sense of self, and are keen and able to communicate their opinions, resulting in good behaviour in lessons and around school. A broad and balanced curriculum underpinned by effective assessment ensures individual needs are identified and met, enabling all pupils to achieve well and reach their full potential. There is a strong emphasis on celebrating achievement alongside living out Christian values and this is recognised in a weekly whole school celebration. The school's distinctive Christian character has been reviewed since the last inspection by pupils, staff and the wider community. This is evidenced in a new logo designed by pupils which depicts clear Christian values. Parents welcome this involvement, are fully supportive of the school and appreciate the strong link with the church. One parent specifically chose the school because of the 'Christian character and community ethos,' saying this 'promotes learning as a family.' All parents spoke highly of the positive impact of the church and school in the community, describing their appreciation of the school and church being entwined to the benefit of the pupils in their care. The school provides good opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and is developing opportunities for cultural understanding across the curriculum including religious education (RE). Bright, informative and interactive religious themed displays throughout the school ensure RE is prominent and give frequent opportunities for pupils to reflect. The RE curriculum offers some opportunities to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of learners, but this link is still in its early stages. Provision has meant the school community have had some opportunities to gain an increasing insight into other cultures through work with the Derby Open Centre and an active link with a school in Stockport. The school has identified this as a development point. The school is rightly proud of its support for charities both locally and globally. Pupils recently chose to donate the local hospital to support a member of their school community.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Interactive and inclusive collective worship is a central part of school life. Collective worship has been planned and evaluated by the whole school community, and ideas for improvement have been actioned. In depth pupil involvement is clear as there is an active collective worship council who lead and evaluate worship. A detailed long term plan for collective worship ensures themes are linked to Bible stories, Christian festivals and the parish church. Themes reflect Anglican practice and the church year is inherent throughout the collective worship plan. This supports the Anglican foundation of the school and contributes to the children's understanding of Anglican faith and practice. There are many positive comments about worship which demonstrate the impact it has on the members of the community. Parents appreciate the inclusive nature of collective worship both in school and church, feeling fully informed by the themes shared in the school's newsletter. This, alongside parent's description of 'approachable staff, Christian values and opportunities for prayer,' ensures good involvement of the whole school community in worship. One parent illustrated the positive impact this has at home: 'My child talks about collective worship and we all enjoy the close links with St Paul's church.' Themes for both collective worship and RE are planned well in advance by the collective worship co-ordinator and clergy. Throughout the school there is time for reflection and an opportunity to express thoughts, feelings and beliefs as reflection areas are prominent in each classroom, and in a central area in the 'rainbow room.' Prayer is a key part of these reflection areas and pupils readily articulate how and when they use these areas. One boy said, 'it's peaceful,' with another commenting 'you can talk to God.' St. Paul's church is an integral part of the life of the school. Parents describe the vicar as 'fantastic' and they are fully supportive of events she organises such as 'Messy church, Experience Easter, and after school clubs.' Relationships, services, prayer and community support are interwoven between the

school and the church, with church members fulfilling a key part of the governing body. Major Christian festivals and special times in the church year are celebrated in conjunction with the parish church and these are significant times in bringing the wider school community together.

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

Leadership and management at Dove Holes are both of excellent quality and strongly promote the school's Christian character and ethos. This means that Christian principles are deeply embedded and directly inform the work of all staff and governors. There are visibly sincere relationships between all members of the school community which are a result of the commitment of leaders working in harmony with the church. This is observable in daily school life. Through accurate church school self-evaluation the headteacher and governors are able to evaluate effectively the impact of the school's Christian values on pupils' achievements and well-being. Governors have a strong commitment to the school's Christian foundation ensuring appropriate support, encouragement and challenge are given to the leaders of RE and collective worship. There has been significant progress made in all the key issues from the previous inspection resulting in well informed and effective foundation governors in addition to a very successful relationship with the local parish which enhances the spiritual dimension of the school. Local clergy provide excellent support for the school both practically and spiritually and there are strong and productive links with the diocese. Staff development and training is clearly linked to the school development plan with regular training for RE and collective worship at the centre. This is continuing to embed the Christian vision. School evaluation is clear about the journey and the impact that the community has made since the last church school inspection and indicates further plans for the next stage of the journey. The very effective worship committee, play an important role in involving all pupils in the life of the school. A highly effective partnership with St. Paul's church demonstrates a focussed desire for the same positive outcomes for pupils in their care. Parents feel that the links with the church give a strong community feel and appreciate that their children also benefit from the school's involvement in activities arranged through the local churches working together. They appreciate the 'open door policy' knowing that the school listens to their views and that problems are dealt with quickly and sensitively. This, combined with a real desire to look for ways to enrich the learning experiences of all pupils means the school has the capacity to improve, develop and grow even more as a church school.

SIAMS report January 2016, Dove Holes Controlled Primary School, Dove Holes, Derbyshire SK17 8BJ