



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### **Matlock All Saints' Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School**

Hurds Hollow  
Matlock  
DE4 3LA

**Previous SIAS grade:** Good

**Current inspection grade:** Outstanding

**Diocese:** Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: 1 March 2016

Date of last inspection: 9 February 2011

School's unique reference number: 112837

Headteacher: Hazel Henson

Inspector's name and number: John Horwood 177

#### **School context**

This is an average-sized junior school with 238 pupils. Pupils attend mainly from the Matlock Bank area. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds. The proportions of disadvantaged pupils and of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs are below the national averages. The headteacher took up her post in September 2014. The school is part of the All Saints' Federation of Schools which was formed in January 2016. The parish church of All Saints is approximately half a mile away.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Matlock All Saints' Junior School as a Church of England school are outstanding**

- The shared Christian values of Perseverance, Honesty, Trust, Courage, Forgiveness, Service and Justice are fundamental to the work of the school. They are extremely well promoted and deeply embedded within the school and have led to excellent relationships and pupils' outstanding behaviour.
- The headteacher provides outstanding leadership of this church school. She is an excellent role model and is well-supported by senior leaders and staff in promoting her vision for the school.
- The very strong links with the All Saints' Infant School and the All Saints' Church are clearly demonstrated by the motto 'We Are All Saints'.
- Religious education and collective worship support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development extremely well and pupils become mature, sensible and caring individuals.

#### **Areas to improve**

- Continue to develop the programme of training for all governors so that they can be fully effective in supporting the headteacher's vision for the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school.

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

Pupils have developed a deep understanding of the meaning of being in a church school. This has ensured that they are proud of being involved with the nearby church and are excited about their visits there. A significant number of visits to other places of worship including the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Derby, the Normanton Baptist Church, The Hindu Temple Geeta Bhawan and Jamal Mosque. These have helped pupils gain a strong understanding of and respect for diverse communities. The visits to the cathedral and to the nearby church for collective worship have helped pupils become comfortable and confident with the church community and Anglican traditions. They know and welcome the local Rector into school. The actions from the previous inspection to make the Christian character of the school have been addressed well. In addition to the much-improved website, the signage around the school and school documents all clearly identify the strong link to Christianity. The staff and pupils renamed each classroom after a saint and this reminds pupils and visitors how the school name is so closely linked to Christianity. The popularity of the school continues to increase with many parents opting to send their children there because of the strong Christian ethos of the school. Parents are very happy with the Christian values promoted in the school which they agree make a significant contribution to pupils' outstanding behaviour and relationships. They agree that this in turn provides a good learning environment where pupils can learn well. Both published data and work in pupils' books confirm that pupils do learn and achieve well. This is because teaching is lively, creative and purposeful pupils enjoy school. As a result, pupils want to come to school and their attendance is above average and improving. The strong faith and commitment of the headteacher ensure that pupils develop spiritually throughout the school. This is supported by the opportunities for prayer or reflection available in every classroom.

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

The headteacher has successfully transformed the delivery and impact of collective worship. Collective worship now takes place at 9am to ensure that the school day starts with a clear focus on the importance of worship together. Whole school worship generally takes place in the main hall which is well-adapted in the mornings for this purpose. Action has been taken since the previous inspection to provide effective opportunities for music and singing. This has led to high quality singing and a greater involvement by the school community in collective worship. All staff and pupils attend and participate. This is encouraged by the increased opportunities for active participation which inspire all pupils to join in and reflect. In addition to singing, pupils read passages from the Bible and lead prayer. All these activities lead to greater ownership of collective worship and greater enjoyment. In turn this leads to a greater impact on both adults and pupils. Pupils are able to recall occasions of collective worship which has a memorable impact on them and they are able to relate the content and meaning. Adults in the school ensure they are good role models of the values promoted through collective worship. The worship table in the hall reflects the seasons of the Church's year and opening sentences and prayers reflect Anglican practice. Key festivals are celebrated in the church and helps pupils understand Anglican traditions. Pupils are very familiar with The Lord's Prayer and The Grace. All the experiences of collective worship help pupils gain a growing understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit as they move through the school. The monitoring of collective worship is mainly informal but systems are being further developed to make this formal as well. Regular discussion takes place between staff about collective worship as they are gradually taking on greater ownership of it. A good range of speakers are invited into school to lead or support worship and this, together with school visits into the community, helps pupils gain a greater understanding of other faiths and of diversity within Christianity as a world-wide faith. Parents who were spoken to during the inspection praised the ways both religious education and collective worship are managed in the school and the way they both help their children develop beyond just their academic ability. They identified the vast increase in musical opportunities as a good example of how this is supported. Parents also appreciate the links with

the church and how the 'balance' of school activities is 'just right'.

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

Outstanding leadership and management is the key to the school's improvement. Governors and parents recognise that the headteacher brought new energy and faith which has revitalised the school. Her vision for the school to become an outstanding church school, where Christian values are the secure basis for every pupil to enjoy and develop all aspects of their learning, is supported by all leaders and staff. Pupils are successfully encouraged to feel part of their local Anglican church and community. They are encouraged to have a growing understanding of their connection to the Diocese through, for example, links with the Cathedral and other church schools. This gives them interest and confidence to discuss Anglican traditions across a range of settings. This was evident when pupils showed the inspector around the school and were proud of the wall display showing their visit to the Cathedral. The headteacher ensures that policies, collective worship and religious education all help pupils understand that each of them is a child of God and they have the opportunities to reflect and explore all aspects of Christianity. Parents confirm that this has all led to a school where everyone feels welcome, respected and fully involved. Pupils excitedly showed the inspector the cross they designed which now appears throughout the school and on the school letterhead. A major recent change has included the federation with the infant school. This has been well managed by the headteacher and governors and the revitalised focus on Christian values is already firmly embedded. The governing body is committed to ensuring that the school continues as an effective church school but members have not yet developed all the skills such as providing the appropriate challenge and support, which they need to support the headteacher in her vision. They have already started on a process of training and support through the Diocese but realise there is still more to do. They have ensured that effective action has been taken on all the issues from the previous inspection and have improved their awareness of the need and nature of Christian distinctiveness. The partnership with the local church and clergy is strong and the inclusion of the church under the banner of 'We are All Saints' recognises and supports this. The Rector leads the support by being an associate governor, regularly leading collective worship and welcoming pupils and their families into the church. He and other members of the church community are well known to pupils who talk confidently about them and their visits to school. The partnerships with all stakeholders are strong and contribute to the excellent relationships throughout the school. Leaders, governors, adults and pupils work as a family with the same Christian values and this has contributed to the excellent relationships and outstanding behaviour. The school's self-evaluation is very accurate and demonstrates that the school knows its strengths and what needs to improve for the benefit of pupils. The headteacher has strong links with the Diocese and has made full use of the support available to provide training and other opportunities for staff. The priority of collective worship and religious education within the school is clear. Collective worship is the responsibility of the headteacher and the leadership of religious education is the responsibility of an experienced and dedicated coordinator who regularly attends training and works with staff to support planning. The development of staff for future leadership of church schools is a key feature to ensure motivation of staff and to ensure progression opportunities. Staff are aware of and encouraged to make use of training with the Diocese. This was demonstrated by a newly qualified teacher who told the inspector that the support he had been given by the school and the Diocese was excellent and he had already decided that working in a church school is the right career for him.

SIAMS report March 2016 Matlock All Saints' Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School,  
Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3LA