

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>St John's Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School</b>	Dannah Street Ripley Derbyshire DE5 3BD
<b>Current SIAMS inspection grade</b>	Outstanding
<b>Diocese</b>	Derby
Previous SIAMS inspection grade:	Outstanding
Local authority	Derbyshire
Date of inspection	13th October 2016
Date of last inspection	5th December 2011
School's unique reference number	112849
Headteacher	Wendy Rose
Inspector's name and number	Louise Patterson (310)

### School context

The school is a larger than average primary school with 368 pupils on roll with a further 37 in the Nursery Unit. It is one of several schools in the small Derbyshire town of Ripley. Though there has been some significant movement of staff, including the appointment of a Senior Learning Mentor, the head teacher remains from previous inspections. The school serves a socially diverse community with few pupils with English as a second language. Pupils known to be eligible for Pupil Premium funding is above the national average. The school is situated a short walk from the Parish church.

### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St John's Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

- An outstanding Christian ethos securely rooted in Biblical teachings, managed by outstanding leadership.
- Relationships throughout school are excellent, founded upon the values of love, trust and understanding.
- Pupils are confident, very well-behaved and developing into well rounded individuals in the knowledge that they are loved by everyone in the school and by God.
- High quality collective worship and a strong relationship with the local parish and diocese form a solid foundation for the Christian life of the school.

### Areas to improve

- Involve pupils more in the planning and delivery of worship.
- Introduce information into public documentation to reflect the excellent practice and importance placed on the Christian foundation of the school.

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

There is an explicit Christian ethos which is clearly evident in all areas of the life of the school. This is having a significantly positive impact on all those within in the school. Relationships at all levels are outstanding. This is seen in the valuing of the individual and the excellent quality of care. The school works hard to be inclusive and carefully monitors the above average number of pupil premium students to ensure their progress. Pupils say that they feel very safe in school and thoroughly enjoy the experience, which in turn is resulting in good attendance. Pupils commented that 'the boundaries of a church school are here to protect us' and 'I would not change a thing - it's (the school) just right as it is!'. Pupils are well behaved, confident and very polite. Children are given a very wide range of appropriate responsibilities. Younger children aspire to the roles given to older pupils e.g. Worship Team. This is enabling them to develop into well rounded individuals with a clear sense of right and wrong and they show consideration and respect to both adults and each other. There is an atmosphere of mutual support with all staff being wholeheartedly in support of the Christian ethos of the school. The Christian ethos is having a positive impact on the academic achievement of pupils. This is shown in their behaviour, the pride in their school as a Christian establishment and their support for each other. Parents comment very positively on the school and the broad and balanced experience their children are receiving. 'The school celebrates every aspect of the child', 'Christian values are always there' and 'I deliberately chose this school because of the Christian moral code'. They enjoy the fact that their children come home and talk to them about the Christian dimension of the school and what that involves. Even the youngest children can say what attending a church school means to them with such things as 'crosses for Jesus and God', 'prayer stuff' and 'special Bible'. Prayer is a strong feature of the school with prayers said regularly alongside appropriate liturgical responses. The school is making a significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of both pupils and staff. This is clear from the way pupils reflect on worship in class, their understanding of 5 Golden Rules based on Christian values, the way that the Peace Pals positively impact play and the interactive links with the school in Poiana, Romania. There are excellent relationships with the local and wider community which pupils speak of with pride. The relationship with the local parish is a strength with regular mutually supportive interactions. There is an appropriate and engaging religious education (RE) curriculum in place. It reflects the emphasis on the spiritual which remains an outstanding feature of the school. Pupils are very well prepared for life beyond St John's. As a parent commented, 'they leave with the confidence of knowing they have had a good start in a loving Christian place'.

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

It is clear that worship plays a central part in the Christian life of the school and is having a very positive impact on the lives of both staff and pupils. It provides regular opportunities for the development of the spiritual dimension through prayers and periods of quiet reflection. These are taken up with enthusiasm. There is a clear understanding that the teachings of the Bible can be reflected through caring relationships, good behaviour and mutual respect. Pupils and staff are actively engaged in the worship being delivered and clearly enjoy the experience. Very good use is made of appropriate liturgy, which is said and signed, to which everyone responds well. Pupils enjoy and take pride in the opportunities to lead aspects of worship. The pupil Worship Team are highly respected and take their role very seriously. However, pupils are not sufficiently involved in the planning and delivery of worship on a regular and frequent basis. Pupils said 'it would be nice to be involved'. Pupils can demonstrate some understanding of quite difficult Christian concepts such as forgiveness. Worship is very well led and managed by the co-ordinator, who monitors and gains feedback on a regular basis. This then informs future developments. There is an appropriate balance within worship, with times for song, Biblical stories, prayer and quiet reflection. Major Christian festivals are celebrated in church along with other routine visits to use the church as a resource for RE. Visitors deliver Christian worship on a regular basis which pupils say they enjoy. A parent commented that pupils were 'mesmerised' when Open the Book led worship recently. Parents also said 'my child loves the encouragement and praise in the Golden Book worship' and 'there is a very strong Christian emphasis'.

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

The extremely enthusiastic and committed Christian leadership and management provided by the headteacher, senior leaders and governors contribute significantly to the success of this outstanding church school and to the good progress and overall wellbeing of pupils. Governors regularly reflect upon the impact their work is having on the school and the pupils. The Christian vision of the school is very effectively promoted and evidenced in the quality of the relationships, church and community links and school badge. However, the outstanding Christian ethos and worship are not reflected in public documentation or on the website. All staff are actively committed to the church school ethos which is resulting in an outstanding team spirit. Adults within the school are excellent role models and provide inspiration for the high expectations of behaviour, care and respect for the individual, which are all significant characteristics of Ripley St John's. There are strong, mutually supportive links with the local parish which are set to develop even further. The local church provides support for the school both practically and spiritually, with prayers for each other. There are strong and productive links with the diocese which are greatly appreciated by the school leadership. Relationships with parents are excellent; as a parent commented, 'there is a genuinely open door policy,' and, 'I never struggle to talk to someone if I need to.' They greatly appreciate the open door policy of the school and the accessibility of the head teacher. Pupils say that they have an effective voice within the school with both individuals and the school council being heard. The self-evaluation carried out by the school is accurate and the areas they have highlighted are entirely appropriate. The school meets the statutory requirements in both RE and collective worship. The school's outstanding leadership, supported by the local church, governors and the diocese, is very well placed to continue to move the school forward within its Christian foundation. This alongside a staff who are committed to creating the very best learning outcomes for pupils, will enable the school to continue its journey to continue as an outstanding church school.

SIAMS report [October 2016] [St John's CE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School] [DE5 3BD]