



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Corfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School	Thorpes Road, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7GQ
Current SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Diocese/Methodist District	Derby
Previous SIAMS inspection grade:	Outstanding
Local authority	Derbyshire
Name of multi-academy trust/ federation	n/a
Date of inspection	6 October 2016
Date of last inspection	13 December 2011
School's unique reference number	112826
Headteacher	Kathryn McKinley
Inspector's name and number	Kerry Palmer (60)

School context

Corfield is a smaller than average, three class, school serving the central area of the small town of Heanor. Children come from mixed socio-economic backgrounds. Almost all, like the community, are of White British heritage. The number considered disadvantaged is around the national average, as is the proportion with special needs. The Victorian building has been extended and well developed to provide a stimulating environment for education today. There are spacious and well-resourced outdoor areas. St Lawrence Parish Church 15 minutes' walk away. A two year vacancy for a parish priest has very recently been filled.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Corfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School as a Church of England school are good

- Headteacher, staff and governors at Corfield believe passionately that every child is a unique and special part of God's creation. Consequently, they strive to achieve the best for all.
- Religious education (RE) is delivered by enthusiastic and well informed staff. It provides many fruitful opportunities to promote children's spiritual development and enhances the Christian character of the school.
- Governors actively promote the school's Church foundation but they are insufficiently involved in its evaluation.
- There is a mutually beneficial partnership with the parish which promotes children's understanding of Anglican tradition and practice.

Areas to improve

- Review the school's vision so as to ensure that all stakeholders recognise that its core Christian values are driven by an understanding of the unique person of Jesus Christ.
- Involve parish, governors and school leaders in an ongoing review cycle of each aspect of the school's Christian distinctiveness to inform development planning of this key facet of school life.
- Display RE prominently in each classroom to underline its importance in a church school.
- Develop the monitoring of collective worship by the whole school community to inform improvement planning.

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

Corfield is a welcoming, nurturing and inclusive school where Christian values ensure that the wellbeing of the whole school family is of utmost importance and drives the pursuit of excellence. The grade is not better because the school's strong, Christian ethos is not explicit in the school's vision or key documentation.

The whole child is valued. Children respond positively to many opportunities to take responsibilities. They are praised for a variety of achievements, recognising a range of God given gifts and talents. The professional, enthusiastic and hardworking staff team support each other in detailed tracking of each child's progress, ensuring that the majority, who begin school below national expectations, make very good progress. Data illustrates that effective intervention strategies ensure that disadvantaged children are motivated to close the gap with others. Children enjoy school, consequently attendance has generally been above national averages over a number of years. There are no exclusions.

Children's behaviour, relationships and attitudes are good. They are guided by policies that, whilst compatible with Christian values of reconciliation, trust and service, do not make this clear. Effective strategies to promote spiritual development are evident in school planning, but a coherent policy has not been developed.

The school has established a number of strategies, since the last inspection which help children appreciate our diverse society. These include links with a contrasting inner city school and visits to a Gurdwara. RE is led by effective and enthusiastic staff. It plays a major role in the promotion of social, moral, cultural and spiritual education and successfully promotes the school's church foundation.

Children are developing empathy for the less fortunate, understanding the significance of Macmillan coffee morning and harvest food collection, 'It's for people who are hungry and have no money'.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship at Corfield is integral to daily school life. This is because it engages and involves the whole school community. Christian values promoted are evident in relationships and attitudes throughout the school day. All staff regularly lead worship using a rich variety of strategies, guided by a well organised, thematic plan which includes regular Bible stories, prayer and worship songs. This ensures continuity. Children know that the opening candle represents 'Jesus, the light of the world who shows us the way.' However, the Christian context of every collective worship is not emphasised by the regular use of child appropriate liturgical gathering and sending phrases, with responses. Children are clear that God created the world and gave it to us to look after. They also speak of Jesus as Son of God as their appreciation of the mystery of the Trinity grows.

There has been some development of the active participation of children in planning and leading worship since the last inspection. Prayer is a regular feature of the school day and children enjoy composing their own prayers. 'We are talking to God'. 'You can do it anywhere, God's always listening' another said. In the worship observed, children contributed their own thoughts to 'sorry' prayers and Y1 children were busy writing 'thank-you' harvest prayers in RE. There is time for children to wonder, promoting spiritual development. Leaders recognise the potential for an additional reflective area in school and outside.

There is an active partnership with St Lawrence Parish; Messy Church and holiday clubs are popular. The church is regularly used for school festival services and presentations which are enthusiastically attended by many family members. Children also learn much from curriculum visits guided by church members. These enhance their appreciation of church practice and Anglican tradition. A group from Christians in Derbyshire Schools, lead worship from time to time and organise a well-supported lunchtime Christian children's club. The grade is not better because, whilst there has been some formal monitoring of the impact of collective worship, this is underdeveloped and does not meaningfully inform improvement.

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

Christian values are implicit in all decision making, but not clearly expressed in the school's vision or documentation. Strong and effective leadership and an established staff team, who support each other, model Christian values. They are driven by the desire for continuous improvement and to do the best for every child. Consequently, their academic progress is very good. Pastoral care is a high priority; children are happy and safe. The challenge of community life is met with Christian compassion and direction. A good example being the issue of broadening children's cultural and religious horizons. Effective use is made of professional development opportunities at all levels and staff encouraged to take additional responsibilities and grow as leaders. There is extensive networking and partnership developments with other schools, sharing professional expertise and insights. Diocesan and Local Authority support is also valued. Governors are committed to the school's Christian ethos and offer effective challenge. However, the current monitoring and evaluation of Christian

distinctiveness is insufficiently developed. Parents have high praise for the dedication and approachability of all staff. 'My child is 'special', but they can't do enough', said one mum. They feel well informed about school developments. 'We can call in and chat when we drop them off or collect'. The school fully meets statutory requirements for RE and collective worship. The potential for further positive development is excellent.

SIAMS report October 2016 Corfield CE (VC) Infant School, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7GQ