



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### St Andrew's Church of England/Methodist Voluntary Aided Primary School

Pentland Road  
Dronfield Woodhouse  
Derbyshire  
S18 8XQ

**Previous SIAS grade:** Outstanding

**Current inspection grade:** Outstanding

**Diocese:** Derby                      **Methodist Circuit:** Sheffield

Local authority: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: 26 May 2016

Date of last inspection: 18 May 2011

School's unique reference number: 112913

Headteacher: John Clapham

Inspector's name and number: John Horwood 177

#### School context

This is a below-average-sized primary school with 195 pupils. Pupils attend mainly from within the Dronfield Woodhouse area. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds. The proportions of disadvantaged pupils and of pupils who have special educational needs or disability are well below the national average. The school was judged to be good in the May 2016 Ofsted inspection. The school is physically linked to the St Andrew's community church.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Andrew's Primary School as a Church of England and Methodist school are outstanding

- The strong faith and leadership of the headteacher, well-supported by senior leaders, staff and governors, ensure that Christian values are fundamental to the school and support all aspects of pupils' learning and development.
- The school and the church, together, are a focal point of the community and have led to excellent partnerships between the school, the church, parents and the whole community which benefit the pupils' development and faith.
- The excellent links with the community church, the wide range of experiences through collective worship and the strong provision in religious education ensure that all pupils have a strong understanding of spirituality which influences their lives.
- Parents are very pleased with every aspect of the school and many identify the ethos based on Christian values as being fundamental to their children's learning and well-being.

#### Areas to improve

- Increase pupils' understanding of The Trinity through more opportunities to explore it in collective worship and religious education, together with more visual identification of the Trinity within the school.
- Embed the new assessment without levels system across the school to enable accurate identification of the progress made by pupils in religious education over time.

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

Parents, and the very recent Ofsted report, identify Christian values as the foundation for every aspect of school life. This includes the impact on pupils' academic achievements which have risen steadily over recent years and the impact on pupils' personal development. Pupils' behaviour is outstanding and is accompanied by excellent relationships and attitudes to learning. These in turn have led to above average attendance figures and very few exclusions. The Christian character of the school has a very high profile throughout the school and the community, and all members of the school community talk freely about how being in a church school supports the pupils. For example, parents of pupils who have special educational needs or disability are very appreciative of adults' caring nature and of the 'nurture' facilities provided. These demonstrate the values of equality, fairness and kindness existing throughout the school. The action from the previous inspection to share the many aspects of outstanding practice with other church schools has been undertaken with enthusiasm and has been beneficial to them. The impact of both collective worship and the curriculum content on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. This is seen in their ability to communicate effectively with church leaders and other members of the wider community about prayer and faith. This was described by the vicar as 'unexpectedly challenging' when she was asked some searching questions during a 'grill a vicar' opportunity. Pupils have regular opportunities to express their views and thoughts in considerable depth within the worship council. Pupils gain a secure understanding of Christianity being a multi-cultural faith through the curriculum and visits to other places of worship. Through being part of the family of denominations within St Andrew's community church, pupils gain a good understanding of diversity within the church including both Anglican and Methodist traditions. Learning is made enjoyable and purposeful. The strong faith and commitment of the headteacher ensure that pupils develop spiritually throughout the school. This is supported by the prayer/reflection areas available in every classroom and the excellent nurture facilities introduced within the school.

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

The importance of collective worship to St Andrew's school is demonstrated by the full involvement of the whole school community. The role of the pupil worship council is impressive as is the way members work closely with the vicar to support worship. All staff are involved with collective worship in various ways. Pupils are inspired by collective worship because they are all actively involved and they recognise that the Christian values promoted impact directly on their thoughts, attitudes and behaviour. Pupils benefit from a range of settings for collective worship as well as visiting speakers to lead worship. Within the school/church building worship takes place in the church, the main school hall (whole school worship and by key stages) and classrooms. The vicar regularly leads worship in the school. Currently the vicar of St Andrew's is from the Church of England whereas the previous minister was from the Methodist Church. This ensures that pupils become aware of both denominations over time. In addition, there are representatives from both churches visiting the school to keep pupils informed about the traditions and practice of both. The worship is planned well to regularly include biblical material and Christian teaching. A strong feature within the school is the ongoing overtness of the Christian character with discussion around the links between Bible stories, specific Christian values and pupils' lives. Collective worship has a strong focus on Jesus Christ and pupils are made aware of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The life and work of John Wesley are incorporated into worship and linked to the Christian values being discussed. Both Anglican and Methodist traditions are promoted through singing and prayer, both of which pupils join in with enthusiasm. Pupils are able to talk confidently about prayer and how it helps them. Adults in the school ensure they are good role models of the values promoted through collective worship. Pupils are very familiar with The Lord's Prayer and The Grace. Governors take a strong interest in collective worship and attend whenever possible during the year. The responsible governor, who is the vicar, is very active in monitoring and planning collective worship. Leaders and governors work effectively to ensure that feedback from observations is used to inform future planning.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding**

Attainment in religious education is high and pupils' progress is rapid in developing an understanding of Christianity and a broad range of religious beliefs. The priority given to the subject is clear by it being given a high profile in documentation and by the subject being coordinated by the headteacher. Pupils are all set targets for achievement in religious education. Progress is tracked across the school with the same rigour as in English and mathematics for all groups of pupils. The work in pupils' books reflects pupils' high attainment in religious education. This is confirmed by school records. Because the new assessment system has not been in place over several years the school records do not yet contain secure evaluations about progress over time. Within lessons pupils show interest in learning about the subject. They are enthusiastic about the subject and have developed a high level of skill in their discussion abilities. All pupils develop the ability to understand and reflect on the content of lessons. The majority of teaching is good or better. The religious education curriculum is based on the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus which is used with additional emphasis on giving the pupils a clear understanding of what the school leaders see as important in a church school. In order to stimulate pupils' interest, the opportunities for drama, role play and questioning are integral to the teaching of religious education. This helps to ensure that the learning in religious education has an effective impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Staff at all levels have undertaken training opportunities provided by the diocese. This includes in-school training as well as the whole staff team attending the biannual Church School Conference.

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

The headteacher's vision for the school to continue to drive the school to be an outstanding church school where every pupil develops their full potential as an enthusiastic learner in a Christian, caring environment. This is supported by all governors, leaders and staff. The whole school community identifies the impact of the explicit Christian values on the lives of the pupils as excellent. Parents are extremely satisfied with the school and the values it promotes. They say that the headteacher is an excellent role model and that this has led to a school where everyone feels welcome, respected and fully involved. Parents who met with the inspector praised the caring nature of the school and particularly the care given to those children who need extra support. All parents spoken to by the inspector recognise the effectiveness of the school being due to its promotion of Christian values. Parents also appreciate the close partnership with the 'community church' which, because the building is shared, supports the school's ethos. The vicar and the foundation governors provide very strong spiritual support. Pupils talk confidently to the vicar when she visits the school and she has regular meetings with the worship council about the planning and monitoring of collective worship. The school's self-evaluation is very accurate and demonstrates that the school knows its strengths and weaker areas. The Diocese of Derby provides support and training to support leadership skills within this church school. The headteacher and governors maintain close links with the Methodist Sheffield District who provide appropriate support. The partnerships are enhanced by additional partnerships made to support other church schools across the diocese, as well as within the Sheffield diocese and the East and West Midlands cluster of Methodist Schools. Leaders ensure that religious education and collective worship meet all the statutory requirements.

SIAMS report May 2016 St Andrew's Church of England/Methodist Voluntary Aided Primary School,  
Dronfield Woodhouse, S18 8ZQ