



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant School

Common Road

Huthwaite

Sutton in Ashfield

Nottinghamshire

NG17 2JR

**Previous SIAMS grade: Good**

**Current inspection grade: Outstanding**

**Diocese: Southwell and Nottingham**

Local authority: Nottinghamshire

Dates of inspection: 22 January 2015

Date of last inspection: 27 January 2010

School's unique reference number: 122824

Headteacher: Jo Redfern

Inspector's name and number: Nick Harding 323

#### School context

The school is located in the area of above average deprivation, with nearly all pupils coming from the local community. The school is smaller than average, and has below average numbers of children from other ethnic backgrounds. The proportion of pupils supported by the pupil premium is above average. The school runs a Pre-School in the All Saints Community Centre over the road from the school and next door to the parish church. The Executive Headteacher is assisted by the Head of School. They work in partnership with another church infant school.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Huthwaite Infant as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The very clear and distinct Christian ethos that underpins the school and all those who are part of the school community
- The high quality of collective worship enriching spiritual development
- The Christian values evident in community work, behaviour and attitudes encouraging respect, trust and mutual support
- The clearly Christian leadership of the senior staff and links with the local church, driving the school's vision and community partnership

### **Areas to improve**

- The confidence of staff in the teaching in religious education (RE) in order to embed commitment to this core subject
- Governors' involvement in the observation and monitoring of RE increasing their capacity for involvement in informed development planning

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

The distinctly Christian values of the school are evident in all aspects of the school life including relationships and the commitment to do the very best for the pupils. The Christian nature of the school is made clear on the school website, in documentation, and throughout the school in displays and artefacts. The current headteacher has driven forward the Christian character of the school. Through governors' consultations and staff meetings a clearly Christian ethos is articulated to all. Considerable progress has been made in providing areas for prayer and reflection which are actively used by many children, positively supporting their spiritual development. Pupils' achievements are celebrated, and the level of Christian love and care provided by all staff demonstrates the very caring and safe environment in which children flourish. Children are helpful and supportive of each other, and take the 'playground friends' role seriously, thus living out Christian care. Data shows that all pupils make good progress during their time at the school, and the pastoral care for those who come from challenging backgrounds is extremely effective. The family support worker demonstrates a high level of knowledge and care for the pupils and their families, helping with a range of issues and providing an after-school club that meets the needs of the local community. The school is an active member of the Huthwaite Action Group, seeing its mission as helping children to appreciate the diverse world they live in, and to contribute to the wider community. One parent commented 'This place keeps Huthwaite alive – it's like a bright light'. The Pre-school in the church-run community centre demonstrates the school's commitment to offer Christian service and hope to the local community that is not available elsewhere. Children talk of enjoying opportunities to pause for prayer during the school day, and are very enthusiastic about their regular visits to the church for worship. The school has gained the 'Achievement for All' Quality Mark, and is a 'Healthy School'.

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

Pupils describe worship as one of the best things about the school. One child said worship is 'a chance to meet with God every day', indicating the importance of worship in the life of the school. The vicar is a very regular and welcome presence in the school, and leads the fortnightly visit to the church for worship. A range of activities during worship including singing, lighting a candle, story, reflection, and prayer, enable the children to be active and fully engaged throughout. Members of the church community and parents attend this service, enhancing the connections between church and school. Led by the vicar, many children enthusiastically take an active part in playing instruments, leading prayers, and helping tell the Bible story, contributing to their understanding of Jesus Christ and the Trinity. Worship in school is delivered by the senior leaders and an increasing number of other staff who have grown in confidence and now feel able to lead as well as participate in worship. Children were exceptionally positive about worship in school and church, are able to remember themes and key Biblical teaching, and describe how it made them feel and what it made them think about. Worship is well-planned and resourced, and evaluated through records of children's comments and feedback from staff and pupils, informing relevant development opportunities.

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

RE has a high profile within the school, enhancing the Christian values of the school and the social, moral and cultural development of the pupils. The recently-reviewed RE syllabus and schemes of work are thorough and detailed, providing staff with clear guidance and resources

for teaching. Assessment criteria for RE are clear and structured to ensure accurate tracking of pupil progress and inform planning and learning. The subject focuses on Christianity as the main religion, with some work on Judaism, and creative and imaginative ways to learn about these are provided to ensure good quality teaching and learning. Activities include discussion, drawing, handling artefacts, sharing a picnic, art work, individual research, and story-telling. Teachers prepare well, and introduce themes through the use of visuals and good storytelling. Pupils understand that RE is important, and generally engage well in the range of activities provided. The subject leader is new in the role, and the school has plans to enhance teachers' confidence in the subject to raise standards further. Samples of work and bright, engaging displays indicates that pupils make good progress in RE, and have a high level of Biblical knowledge, and an understanding of the key Christian festivals. Governors are not currently involved in structured observation and monitoring of RE.

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

The executive headteacher and head of school have worked consistently to enhance the Christian distinctiveness of the school, and it is clearly seen as a place that serves the community including parents and carers with a Christian vision, ethos and example. The vicar, chair of governors, foundation governors, and others from the church are exceptionally supportive of the school, working with the staff to provide the best possible education in a clearly Christian environment. Parents hold the school in high regard and are fully involved in developments. The self-evaluation of the school shows that the leadership has a thorough and deep understanding of what the school is like, what it does well, and where it is going. Development plans for the school continue to review the Christian ethos, and in particular work on staff confidence in the teaching of RE. The school makes full use of the resources and support offered by the diocese. Partnership with Selston C of E Infant School through the executive headteacher is seen as mutually-beneficial, and an opportunity to share good practice and a continuous striving for improvement. RE and worship meet the statutory requirements. The commitment of senior leadership, along with governors and other stakeholders, place the school in an outstanding position to continue to thrive as a church school.

SIAMS report January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015 All Saints CE Infant, Huthwaite NG17 2JR