



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School

Thornhill Road
Littleover, Derby
DE23 6FZ

Previous SIAS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derby

Date of inspection: 30 April, 2015

Date of last inspection: 18 June, 2010

School's unique reference number: 112921

Headteacher: Alison Woodhouse

Inspector's name and number: Kerry Palmer (60)

School context

St Peter's is an averaged sized junior school in the multi-cultural suburbs of Derby city. Although almost half the children are of white British heritage, there is a rich mix of 19 nationalities and several different faiths. Families are from a range of socio-economic groups. The proportion of children with special needs or disabilities is average; the number receiving pupil premium support is below average. There is a close working relationship with neighbouring St Peter's Church. The Victorian building has been extended and improved to provide a welcoming and stimulating environment for 21st century education.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Peter's as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The passion and commitment of the headteacher to promote Christian distinctiveness resulting in a school community that celebrates and lives by its shared values.
- The strong staff team and dedicated subject leaders, who, driven by Biblical teaching, deliver excellent education recognising the unique value of each child.
- The dynamic partnership with the church community which promotes family engagement.

Areas to improve

- Continue the development of Christian distinctiveness so that all the school community fully appreciate its Biblical foundation.

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

St Peter's, Littleover is an inclusive, welcoming Christian community built on respect for all people and a valuing of diversity. It is driven by explicit Christian values, PEACE being the framework for its mission statement, modelled by all staff and rooted in a broad understanding of Christian mission. Collegiate teaching, focussing on the whole child and promoting enquiry and creativity, is inspiring and transforming. Sensitive and professional support for children with

particular needs ensures full integration and maximises progress. Data indicates sustained improvement and that children of all abilities, motivated by aspirational targets and standards, often make outstanding progress. Many enrichment and extension activities, including Christian clubs run in partnership with the parish, ensure that the more able are challenged and stretched. This is a school of happy, hardworking children who enjoy school and say they feel safe. Consequently, attendance is above average and behaviour excellent. Spiritual, social, moral and cultural development is very successfully promoted through a concern for every child. The impact of outdoor and exciting environmental activities deserves special mention. The children's development is enriched by living in a multi-faith and cultural community. The school successfully promotes respect and mutual understanding whilst retaining appreciation of Christianity as a world-wide church, visits from the parish Church Missionary Society link workers in Peru being one example. Empathy for the less fortunate is clear in the support for many charities including Traidcraft, a local food bank, Children's Purse and Red Nose Day.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Inspirational worship sets the tenor at the start of each school day. The Christian values at its heart embrace all aspects of school life. Worship is recognised by children and staff as important and special. Sensitive and creative approaches ensure that children of all faiths represented and those of no faith, have an appreciation of the source of Christian values, Christians' understanding of the special nature of Jesus and His place in the Trinity. Rooted in Biblical teaching, worship delivers messages that are recognised as relevant by children and influence their attitudes and relationships at school and beyond. A variety of evaluation strategies ensure that the voice of all stakeholders is heard and acted upon by the highly motivated and skilled worship co-ordinator. Well planned themes are reviewed regularly and updated in a cycle of continuous improvement. A rich variety of worship leaders, including the established children's worship committee, a positive development since the last inspection ensure that the school community experience a range of stimulating worship styles. Well used opportunities for prayer and reflection significantly enhance children's spiritual development. All staff and children, joined by families, attend worship in St Peter's Church several times each term for festival and pupil led worship. Parents also share class worship in school. Regular input from the vicar, Illuminate, a local churches initiative, and other church members, enhances the worship pattern and ensures children have a growing appreciation of liturgical styles and Anglican tradition. The vicar is a pastoral friend to all and shares in Religious Education (RE) and worship development. The filming, with the children's worship committee, of teaching clips including explanations of the Trinity being the latest example.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Creative and exciting teaching strategies combined with strong and committed subject leadership, a professional and focussed staff team ensures much outstanding teaching. As a result standards of attainment are at least in line with other core subjects and well above national expectations. Imaginative cross-curricular teaching successfully addresses a range of learning style and abilities so that all make excellent progress. In one lesson, I-pads gave a demonstration of pastel sketching of tulips as children observed the wonders of God's creation. In another, faith expressed through music was the focus. Spirited Art displays are around the school and each class has an RE display along with literacy and maths underlining its core subject status. Planning and teaching reflect a comprehensive understanding of the subject material. Children are clear about lesson objectives, are focussed and attentive. Lessons observed in all eight classes challenged the children and significant learning was evident. Teachers' questioning provoke deep thinking and children participate fully in wide-ranging, differentiated activities. Planning and children's work make it clear that there is progression and development throughout the school ensured by regular work scrutiny and a manageable assessment system. The subject leader and headteacher effectively promote monitoring, review and development, contributing to positive growth and maintaining the subject's high profile in the school community. High priority is given to staff development at all levels. RE successfully enhances

the explicit application of Christian values throughout the school day and in children's lives. As expected in a church school, Biblical teaching is at the core of the RE syllabus; children's knowledge of Christianity is excellent. However, appropriate teaching about other faiths helps children recognise key similarities and differences. Children spoke of Jesus recognised by Jews, Muslims and Christians, but in different ways. Families of other faiths have confidence in the integrity of the school's approach. Some enrich teaching with their personal beliefs and practice and almost all children participate in worship in church which is well attended by a cross-section of families.

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

The school's Christian mission is passionately promoted by a highly committed and professionally skilled headteacher, RE and worship leaders and foundation governors. Staff and parents fully support Christian based values which form the foundation of all school activity. These values are evident in every aspect of school life and promote high achievement. The established staff team work in close harmony. A rich mix of skills and experience are willingly shared to enhance each other's practice. Rigorous and accurate self-evaluation, at all levels, ensures focussed development priorities in a school where enthusiasm for continuous improvement pervades. School leaders recognise that they are on a Christian journey. Servant leadership, well developed programmes of professional development and encouragement to take responsibility grows potential in staff. Governors are well informed and effectively support the school's ethos and direction. The strong, lively partnership with the parish community is mutually beneficial, Messy Church and Prayer Week being two examples. Parents speak highly of the care, love and dedication of staff whose passion and expertise they fully appreciate, 'It provides a foundation for life,' being a typical comment. They feel fully involved in school life and believe their views are taken seriously. The school hosts a thriving area RE teachers' support group, sharing expertise and raising the subject's profile in local schools. Close and positive links are maintained with the diocese training and support network. RE is fully recognised as a core subject and along with worship, far exceeds statutory requirements in underpinning the school's Christian distinctiveness. Development issues from the last inspection have been fully met and the potential for continuing outstanding development and the further sharing of good practice is excellent.

SIAMS report April 2015 St Peter's CE (VA) Junior School, Derby DE23 6FZ