



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

The Lincoln St Peter at Gowts Church of England Primary School

Pennell Street
Lincoln
LN5 7TA

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: 1 July 2016

Date of last inspection: 6 October 2011

School's unique reference number: 120563

Headteacher: Charlotte Hickerton

Inspector's name and number: Fiona Griffiths 705

School context

The school is a medium sized school with 257 children on roll. The headteacher was appointed in January 2015. There have been significant changes in staff. A reconstituted governing body was formed in May 2015. The proportion of pupils for whom the Pupil Premium Funding is allocated is above average which reflects the socio economic backgrounds of the community. The proportion of children from minority ethnic groups is above average and the proportion for whom English is an additional language is also high. The number of children with disabilities and/or special educational needs is above the national average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of The Lincoln St Peter at Gowts as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The vision and drive of the headteacher, effectively supported by staff and governors has embedded Christian values which are strong throughout all aspects of the school.
- An inclusive Christian environment, where excellent relationships underpin positive teaching and learning experiences, enables children to make good progress and achieve well.
- The strong sense of community means that children and their families are well supported and nurtured.
- Collective worship is engaging and motivational and creates a special time for all. It is an integral part of school life.

Areas to improve

- Ensure regular, rigorous and focussed evaluation of the school's vision and values as a Church of England school is maintained and continues to inform strategic planning.
- Provide children with greater opportunities for reflection in order to develop their spirituality in increasing depth.

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

Explicit Christian values are at the heart of all that the school does as they are deeply embedded in its daily life. Eight Christian values, chosen by the school community, make a significant contribution in promoting excellent attitudes towards learning and raising academic standards to a high level across the school. All members of the school community are dedicated to ensuring each child achieves the best possible outcomes both academically and spiritually. This can be seen in the rapid progress made by all groups of children. For example, children with English as an additional language and those with special educational needs have made outstanding progress. Children are well supported in their learning through 'learning surgeries', a Parent Support Advisor, teachers and teaching assistants. They are regarded by children and adults as being caring and helpful. This is one aspect of the excellent relationships throughout the school. Another is the strong partnership with local churches and the community which reflect and nurture the Christian ethos. The Christian character of the school makes an outstanding contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of the children, whatever their background or belief. Parents believe that this, together with a caring and supportive atmosphere, has a positive influence on their children's wellbeing, development and current levels of progress. Parents confirm that religious education (RE) makes a significant impact on the Christian character of the school. They feel encouraged to share any concerns with the school, confident in the knowledge that positive action will be taken if appropriate. Behaviour is very good and exclusion is rare and seen only as a last resort. Attendance has improved because children know they are valued and their achievements are celebrated on a daily basis. The provision of a worry box allows children to confidently raise issues of concern. Children make links between the Christian ethos of the school and their everyday lives. This understanding is exemplified through the local charitable events, close to the heart of the school. Children feel proud of their school and comment that 'everyone has a friend, particularly when they need help'. This reflects the positive impact of the carefully chosen themes for collective worship and RE. Children are well prepared for life in modern Britain. They are able to speak with understanding about other people's culture and beliefs. Creative use has been made of both the internal and external environments with bright and thoughtful displays. The use of reflection areas within the school has not yet been fully developed to allow children greater opportunities to explore their own spirituality in increasing depth.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Due to the significant impact of carefully considered themes, explicitly based on the Bible and Christian values, worship at St Peter of Gowts is both unifying and motivational. Termly themes explore events in the Christian calendar and eight core Christian values. This enables children to develop their understanding of Christian life and the centrality of Jesus. Staff, pupils, parents and visitors talk about the positive impact worship has on their lives. For example, children recognise the importance of worship in terms of thanking and praising God. Acts of worship are held in high regard. The creation of a reverent atmosphere helps children to reflect and pray to support their spiritual growth. Celebrations of major Christian festivals take place in the local church which enhances pupils' experience of worship. Services at the church support the children's understanding of Anglican practice and belief. Older children are developing their understanding about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and have a strong sense of 'God is with us'. Children were given the opportunity to watch an act of Holy Communion take place in church to experience this important aspect of Anglican worship. Religious education displays and collective worship reinforce the school's commitment to teaching an understanding of The Holy Trinity across all ages. The headteacher, staff, children and a range of visitors from varying denominational backgrounds are involved in leading, monitoring and evaluating collective worship. Children commented on 'we enjoy our role and it helps us to understand Christianity'. Outcomes from monitoring and evaluation are addressed through the church school action plan. Clear links are made between collective worship, RE and SMSC development which strongly enhance children's learning and understanding. Children have a growing understanding of

Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith. Prayer is integral to school life. Children read prayers in worship, including the school prayer and throughout the school day. Classrooms contain areas of reflection which reflect the termly Christian value, however they have not yet been fully developed to give opportunities for children to experience quiet contemplation or gain inspiration in greater depth.

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

The headteacher's unswerving commitment to the Christian vision is the driving force at the heart of the school's success and ongoing improvement as a church school. The Christian vision is shared with all members of staff and the school community who speak with passion about the school. The Christian vision impacts positively on the ever increasing standards of achievement and the wellbeing of the community. This is clearly demonstrated in the level of care shown to children and their families through the high quality pastoral care. One parent encapsulated this by saying 'the headteacher and staff are always on the playground at the start of the day, they make you feel welcome and care about us and our children'. The emphasis on Christian values is a key reason for many parents choosing the school. A well-developed partnership between the school, the community and the Diocese results in a high awareness of local, national and global issues. The school serves an ethnically and religiously diverse community and is highly effective in creating an inclusive community embracing everyone. The school's self-evaluation is honest and accurate with a clear focus on improving standards to meet the needs of all learners. A creatively planned curriculum enables children to learn about Christianity and other faiths through exciting RE lessons which develops children's investigational and reflective skills. The church and school work closely together which was encapsulated by one of the governors saying 'the children write prayers in school about things which concern them and then these are read out during Sunday church services'. A further example is the way in which the school is able to use the church grounds to grow flowers and fruit. Both areas are exceptionally well led and managed leading to excellent practice in each area. This has meant that both areas make a major contribution to the Christian distinctiveness of the school and the spiritual development of the children. Senior leaders, supported by governors and clergy, model active Christian leadership. This has a positive impact on placing the school at the heart of the local community. The areas of development have been carefully identified and the issues from the last inspection have been addressed. Staff and governors are committed to the continual development of the church school distinctiveness. The school meets the statutory requirements for RE and collective worship.

SIAMS report July 2016 The Lincoln St Peter at Gowts Church of England Primary School, LN5 7TA