



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Dunholme St Chad's Church of England Primary School

Ryland Road
Dunholme
Lincoln
LN2 3NE

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: 7 October 2015

Date of last inspection: January 2011

School's unique reference number:120569

Headteacher: Patricia Ruff

Inspector's name and number: Lizzie McWhirter 244

School context

Dunholme St Chad's Primary School serves the thriving villages of Dunholme and Welton, close to the outskirts of Lincoln. Almost all of its 196 pupils are White British. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals and/or receiving the pupil premium grant is lower than average. There is now an assistant headteacher in post. A senior teacher is the religious education [RE] subject leader.

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

- Strong leadership and good governance are rooted in the mutual and substantial links between church and school.
- The nurturing and inclusive environment in this welcoming and worshipping Christian community is supportive of all, regardless of faith background.
- The level of parental engagement and strength of community links in this church school ensure all feel involved and are partners in their children's education.

Areas to improve

- Enable pupils to develop a good understanding of Christianity as a worldwide faith. This supports pupils' spiritual and cultural development and their understanding of global communities.
- Deepen pupils' understanding of key Christian concepts to nurture pupils' personal and spiritual growth.

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

The Christian character of this school shines through and is the driving force for its vision, values aims and ethos. St Chad's example of love, truth and humility underpins all policy and practice. The Christian ethos is embedded in every aspect of school life. Consequently, this inclusive Christian family community is firmly committed to 'placing children at the heart of everything we do'. Relationships are excellent. Attitudes to learning are very positive. This is because there is a strong focus on nurturing curiosity, enjoyment and creativity within a supportive Christian environment. Any exclusions are viewed in line with the school's behaviour management policy, which reflects the school's ethos and Christian character. Good attendance is celebrated, with the learning mentor working closely with parents. Pupils take pride in their work, grow in their self-esteem and are confident to take risks, within a culture where resilience and perseverance is strongly promoted. Evidence shows there has been rapid improvement in attainment and progress in Key Stage 1 over the last three years, ensuring all children flourish. A rich and engaging curriculum ensures excellent outcomes for all children, including those who receive pupil premium funding. Significantly, the core thread of spiritual, moral, social and cultural [SMSC] development is woven throughout the curriculum. Excellent examples include designing a new school banner, involving pupils, parents and members of the community working with a local textile artist. Families are also welcomed in for Ground Force days, Golden Ticket mornings and community coffee mornings. Such activities help to make the school's Christian ethos and values explicit. In addition, the 'Bare Barons Project' also reflects the school's core values. Project work, such as the work on Magna Carta involved groups of children working co-operatively together. Children show empathy for different cultures and communities through their fundraising activities to support charities, such as Samaritan's Purse and the Community Larder. Links with schools in London and China have enhanced pupils' understanding of diverse and global communities. Pupils are very enthusiastic about their RE. They like 'learning about other religions and saints'. They can relate the Christian narrative well, but are less secure in their knowledge of Ascension and Pentecost. The St Chad's Day pilgrimage enables pupils to celebrate the Anglican heritage of their school and parish church. However, pupils say they would like to know more about Christianity as a worldwide faith. The school recognises this supports their spiritual and cultural development and their understanding of global communities. Pupils are growing in their understanding of key Christian concepts through their RE lessons. The school acknowledges that deepening pupils' knowledge and understanding of these concepts nurtures their personal and spiritual growth.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Integral to the worship at Dunholme St Chad's is the children's ability to lead prayers and pray in front of their peers. This is because the school is a welcoming and accepting worshipping community where children feel safe and empowered to contribute to worship. Prayer is a strong feature of the worshipping life of this school, contributing significantly to the spiritual growth of the whole community. Excellent examples include the sung St Chad's Prayer. Pupils say they enjoy listening to other pupils' prayers as they are easier to understand. Class reflection areas are also well used. Pupils also enjoy singing which helps them to 'think about God'. They go on to comment that going to church 'makes us think more about God'. Pupils who are prepared to share that they are not Christian say they feel included and find church worship helpful. The vicar of St Chad's is a welcome and regular visitor to school. He has been instrumental in helping the pupils and adults understand the chronology of the biblical narrative. As a result, this is now an integral part of the collective worship cycle through the church year. Pupils say they would like to be more involved in worship and in acting out Bible stories. They are growing in their understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They speak of God as 'the father of Jesus and the father of the world. He created the world. Jesus came down to earth to help make things better. He sent the Holy Spirit'. Staff and children are involved in evaluating worship daily which informs the school's distinctive Christian character and its ongoing

development. Even the youngest children know how to prepare for worship and can articulate what the school's Christian values mean in their lives. Older children can make links to current events, such as the Syrian refugee crisis.

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

Leadership at Dunholme St Chad's is strong, with clearly identified roles and responsibilities. This is because the headteacher, senior staff and governors all have a strong Christian vision. They work hard together to ensure the school's core Christian values, which epitomize St Chad, underpin all school life and practice. The wellbeing and subsequent achievement of all pupils are central to the school's strategic direction. Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare is viewed with paramount importance, resulting in policy and practice which enshrine the school's Christian character and purpose. The headteacher is a diocesan associate adviser and the school has a strong and dedicated team of middle leaders. In addition, leadership capacity goes beyond the school, with a Local Leader of Education and Senior Leaders of Education deployed through the Kyra Teaching School. Governance is also strong. Governors constantly look at the school's vision and mission and review their practice. This results in a positive difference in their roles as they supportively challenge the school's leaders and regularly monitor key aspects of Christian distinctiveness. Consequently, all areas from the last inspection have been addressed. Governors successfully support the training needs of staff, with regard to future leadership. The RE subject leader attends cluster meetings and staff and governors have benefitted from diocesan training and support. The school has worked closely with the diocesan RE adviser in exploring the theological framework which underpin the school's core values. RE and collective worship therefore meet statutory requirements and are well led, managed and resourced. Forging links and engaging with parents and the local community has a high profile at Dunholme St Chad's. Excellent examples include the Love Learning evening when parents are invited by the children to share skills and experience new challenges. In addition, the community lunches are popular, such as was celebrating VE Day and wartime experiences together. Reviving the skill of knitting and gardening in the local community significantly strengthen community links. Year 5 and 6 pupils as well as adults engaged in an outreach choral singing project with Lincoln Cathedral. Parents from different faith backgrounds are full of praise for this school. In addition, children and families from HM Armed Forces speak highly of the way they have been welcomed and how they value belonging to this Christian community. In all these ways, the school honours its Anglican foundation in reaching out to the whole community and the children and families it serves.

SIAMS report October 2015 Dunholme St Chad's Church of England Primary School, Lincolnshire LN2 3NE