



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

**Twyford Voluntary Controlled Church of England School,
Church Street,
Twyford,
Buckinghamshire,
MK18 4EQ.**

Diocese: OXFORD

Local authority : Buckinghamshire

Dates of inspection: 11th December 2013

Date of last inspection: 7th November 2008

School's unique reference number: 110437

Headteacher: Judith Foster

Inspector's name and number: Margaret Maskell 136

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Twyford Church of England School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The commitment of the headteacher, strongly supported by the foundation governors makes explicit the Christian belief and values, upon which the school is built, and this has a positive impact on the lives of the pupils.
- The excellent relationships which exist between all members of the school community.
- The strong productive links with the church and the community.

Areas to improve

- To improve pupil's cultural development providing opportunities for them to develop understanding of and respect for diverse communities.
- To develop creatively the use of Anglican liturgy in a way that has meaning and understanding for the pupils.

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

The school has a clearly visible ethos of care, respect and inclusion, which is driven by its vision to inspire learners, in an environment where Christian values are promoted. All members of the community are aware of the Christian values which help to develop a strong Christian ethos throughout the school. These values are responsible for creating a strong teaching team, working together to provide an environment where high expectations are paramount, as well as a belief that each individual child deserves the very best of education. This is reflected in the standard of teaching and learning which, in most areas, is outstanding. There is evidence, observed from conversations with the children, that much of the school's ethos is underpinned by Bible teaching. Class-led worship takes as its theme one of the Christian values. The outstanding teaching of PSHE, delivered through circle-time, is reflected in the excellent behaviour throughout the school. The pupils know and talk about Christian values which, they say, teach them how to behave and show respect to one another. The children are courteous and interact with visitors in a friendly way. Pupils recognise that they need to relate to each other in order to resolve differences. They appreciate the way the school helps them to achieve this objective. The introduction of prayer spaces and thinking corners has enhanced the development of children's spirituality. The Philosophy for Children (P4C) programme helps develop children's thinking skills and their ability to discuss important issues with a degree of confidence. Describing the purpose of Christmas to an alien, the children were able to comment that 'Jesus was sent by God', that 'He is our Saviour', and that 'He is our leader'. Throughout the school children were developing their own ideas about the Christmas story. In the foundation class one of the characters announced that he was King Herod and that he was jealous of the baby. In key stage one, whilst taking on the role of the nativity characters, children showed good understanding when verbalising how each of them might be feeling. The very good teaching of RE impacts positively on the children's knowledge of Christianity as well as other faiths and cultures. A significant initiative to broaden pupils understanding of cultural diversity is the school's link with one in Spain. However, staff correctly recognise that there need to be more opportunities for the children to engage with different examples of diversity.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Whole school collective worship takes place each day, affirming and strengthening the school's strong Christian ethos. Christian values which are the basis of the school's teaching are clearly displayed on the wall in the hall. Class-led worship, planned by the pupils, takes place each term, when one of these Christian values provides the theme. This particular value is linked to the Bible and its teachings. Prayer is an important aspect not only in worship, but also in the daily life of the school. This impacts positively on the pupils' spiritual development. The children know the Lord's Prayer and talk about the time they were taught the meaning behind some of the more difficult phrases. Although the children read their own written prayers during Thursday worship, those who wish may pray extempore. The children refer to the candle, which is lit at the beginning of worship, as a reminder that Jesus is the 'Light of the World'. Bible stories are a regular feature of many acts of worship and the children eagerly await the next instalment of the story of Advent. At the time of the inspection they all knew about the prophets and the whole school were preparing to recite John the Baptist's words 'Someone more powerful is going to follow....' The vicar leads worship frequently and any services led by him, in the church, introduce pupils to the Anglican tradition. The children talk of what it means to worship in the church when there is time to reflect in the peace and the quietness with a feeling of being nearer to God and to Jesus. Worship is planned well by the coordinator who ensures that a variety of leaders and styles of worship is offered, incorporating the Christian festivals and celebrations. At this year's harvest festival service, the school set up prayer spaces around the church using the theme of harvest. Both parents and church members appreciate the arrangements and took part by visiting each station. The school council shares the responsibility of evaluating worship with the foundation governors. It is the

council that asked for the opportunity to use extemporary prayer in worship. In the light of the new SIAMS evaluation schedule the school does not engage sufficiently richly with Anglican liturgy to be judged as outstanding for collective worship.

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

The school's aim is to establish an ethos where Christian values are promoted and are central to creating a distinctive Christian character. The headteacher and her staff articulate these values so that they are understood by all those involved in the school community. This has helped to unite the staff team within which good relationships exist. The governors are very supportive of the school's ethos and are involved with the school's self-evaluation process. Their frequent visits to school help them understand the school well in order to contribute to this process. There are good links with the parents who speak highly of the school's Christian status and the values from which the ethos has developed. They give examples of how they and their children have been nurtured and supported sensitively by the school. The links with the church are very strong. The vicar leads worship in school as well as at church services all of which celebrate events in the Christian calendar. Leadership and management are outstanding. The headteacher leads by example and has high expectations. In consequence there are high levels of attainment and standards of behaviour throughout the school. The school uses data, covering pupil performance, effectively. It is committed to equality of opportunity and ensures that those children with special needs make the same progress as others within the school. Since the last inspection the coordinator for RE and collective worship has been appropriately supported to bring about improvement in these areas. The governors are a strong support for the school's management and have a clear idea of both the school's strengths and weaknesses. The collegiate workshop which involves the vicar, parents, governors and staff, takes place at the end of the school year. It is a chance to evaluate the Christian characteristics of the school as a church school. These findings feed into the school development plan. The school has an effective procedure in place for inducting new members of staff into this church school.