



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Christ Church Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School

Woodcote Road
Tettenhall Wood
Wolverhampton
WV6 8LG

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lichfield

Local authority: Wolverhampton

Date of inspection: 18 June 2015

Date of last inspection: June 2010

School's unique reference number: 104366

Headteacher: Sarah Blower

Inspector's name and number: Lizzie McWhirter 244

School context

Christ Church Junior School serves Tettenhall Wood on the outskirts of Wolverhampton. There are 251 pupils on roll. Around 54% state their religion to be Christian. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs is lower than average. A new deputy head was appointed in September 2014, which strengthened the staff team. The parish church is nearby.

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

- Strong leadership and good governance ensures the Christian character of this school, grounded in Christian values, permeates all school life.
- Engaging and creative religious education [RE] enables children to acquire a high level of religious literacy, supporting their spiritual and cultural development.
- Prayer and Biblical teaching is a strong feature of the school's worshipping life, nurturing pupils' spiritual development.
- The partnership with a school in Kenya enhances pupils' understanding of the worldwide Christian faith.

Areas to improve

- Deepen pupils' experience of leadership of, and their involvement in, the evaluation of collective worship, to ensure worship is constantly reflecting integrity and quality.
- Build on the mutual and substantial links between church and school, developing church services which involves children and their parents. This nurtures the spiritual development of the whole school community.

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

Christ Church Junior provides an inspirational learning environment. It successfully embodies 'working together to build a strong foundation for success through faith and learning'. This is because the school models and lives by its chosen core values of love, respect honesty, trust and responsibility. This makes a positive difference in the lives of the children. Relationships are exemplary because all members of this inclusive family community consistently and continually demonstrate kindness, care and concern. As a result, pupils thrive in the Christian culture and ethos which this junior school creates which positively encourages its pupils to think, question and lead. Pupils enjoy coming to school, are proud to belong, feel valued and achieve highly. There have been few exclusions and attendance is very good. This is because Christ Church nurtures and includes children of all backgrounds, abilities and interests. This has a direct impact on progress and attainment in class. Dedicated teachers respond to children's needs on a daily basis. Children are confident to ask for help because of the excellent relationships which exist in this Christian community. Consequently, all groups of children are doing well. A range of extra-curricular activities, including music and sport, enables a greater range of achievement. Regular fundraising ensures pupils learn how to serve as part of their Christian responsibility. Pupils show respect for diverse cultures and beliefs through RE and worship, which make a strong contribution to the school's Christian character and pupils' personal development. Excellent examples include the partnership with a Kenyan school. This nurtures pupils' spiritual and cultural development and their understanding of Christianity as a worldwide faith. Children's prayers have been translated into Swahili. Every possible space and every room proudly proclaims this is a church school. Very good examples include a collage of every pupil's hands saying, 'we are unique and beautiful, but together we are a masterpiece'. Engaging and creative RE makes a very strong contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural [SMSC] development. RE days cover themes such as 'What Price Peace?' and 'Where in the world?'. These enhance children's global understanding of the worldwide Christian faith. Pupils enjoy asking important questions such as, 'What happens when you die?'. Their knowledge of Sikhism, Islam and Hinduism is very good. They relate the Christian narrative well and can explain incarnation, salvation, Pentecost and The Trinity in their own words. This shows that pupils' religious literacy is very good. Pupils enjoy visiting places of worship, such as St Peter's Church in Wolverhampton. However, they say they would like to visit more places of worship.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Engaging and inspiring worship is deeply embedded in Christ Church's daily school life. Prayer is strong feature of the worshipping life of this school, nurturing the spiritual development of the whole community. Effective strategies, such as 'prayer pebbles' in class and 'awe and wonder' areas are well used. The Fairtrade Committee lead worship regularly, using fairtrade prayers. Pupils make good use of The Holy Post to post their prayers which are then read out weekly. Such prayers often link to the school's chosen values. Pupils say they enjoy listening to Bible stories and praising God in worship. A favourite hymn is 'O Jesus I have promised', which pupils say reminds them of '*Jesus helping you and leading you*'. A highlight at Christ Church was the recent Eucharist service which all classes took part in and was much valued by the whole school community. To this end, the school recognises the importance of developing church services which include children and their families. This builds on the very good partnership between church and school. Pupils are growing in their understanding of The Holy Trinity. They explain The Holy Spirit as '*God's form when he was coming down to earth at Jesus' baptism. God came in the form of Jesus, helped lots of people and then ascended back into heaven. Father God created the earth and created us*'. The worship council meet every half term to evaluate worship. All pupils use reflection books to record their thoughts on the core value of the week. Worship outdoors is well developed now and the worship council have raised this profile. The school recognises the importance of including Year 5 pupils in leadership roles so they can mentor and become role models for younger children. Pupils say they would like more outdoor worship in the copse or

under the gazebo, which is a place they go to personally reflect. They find this place 'very peaceful' as Pentecost prayers displayed around the gazebo encourage stillness. They are also reminded of the school's values here. Some pupils play their musical instruments in worship, and would love to do so more often. In addition, pupils say they would like to take responsibility for the leadership of collective worship more often and share their viewpoints with staff and governors more frequently.

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

The headteacher, deputy headteacher, RE subject leader and governors all have a strong Christian vision and work together exceptionally well. Consequently, the school's core Christian values and the wellbeing of all pupils are central to the school's strategic direction. The Christian character of the school is part of the headteacher's report to governors. This always draws attention to church links, the work on the core values and the difference this makes to children's achievement. Governors' self-evaluation of the school as a church school is robust and rigorous. This consistently informs the school's performance and the SMSC development of pupils. RE and worship meet statutory requirements and are well led, managed and resourced by the dedicated and passionate RE subject leader. All areas from the previous inspection have been addressed, with the school identifying clear priorities for future action. Governors successfully support the training needs of staff with regard to future leadership of church schools. Staff and governors have benefitted from diocesan training and support. This has had a positive impact on pupils' learning. Newsletters successfully promote the children's achievements outside school. Parents speak highly of how teachers go the extra mile to support their children. They especially praise the family feel and close knit community they enjoy here. They value the quality of teaching their children receive, encouraging them to become independent learners. Community links are very good. Excellent examples include the Remembrance Day commemorations. The vicar plays an active part in the life of the school. There is a smooth transition from the Church infant school to the junior school and to secondary Church education. Thus, everyone works together exceedingly well to ensure the school's Christian distinctiveness is celebrated and preserved.

SIAMS report June 2015 Christ Church VC Junior School, Tettenhall Wood, WV6 8LG