



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Uffington Church of England Primary School

School Lane
Uffington
Stamford
Lincolnshire
PE9 4SU

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire
Dates of inspection: 22 May 2013
Date of last inspection: 3 December 2008
School's unique reference number: 120541
Headteacher: Mrs Helen Simms
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Meg Hackney NS198

School context

Uffington Church of England Primary School is a small school serving the villages of Uffington and Tallington and extending to surrounding rural and urban areas. The school is popular and oversubscribed with many parents choosing the school for its size, reputation and religious character. The number on roll has increased to 94 pupils taught in mixed age classes and all pupils are of White British heritage.

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

Christianity is at the very heart of this church school which is effectively led and managed by a strongly committed team. The school's Christian character provides all pupils with high quality education and pastoral care which enables them to develop their potential both spiritually and academically as children of God. The positive impact of religious education (RE) and daily worship is clearly evident in all areas of the school.

Established strengths

- The leadership of the headteacher which inspires and empowers staff and governors and the impact this has on promoting the Christian values on the school community.
- The excellent relationships and behaviour of pupils.
- The impact of religious education and collective worship which raises pupils' aspirations and develops their belief and understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The pro-active partnership with the church and local community.

Focus for development

- Develop a formal system of RE assessment which helps to inform planning and provides pupils with clearer guidelines of how to improve their work.
- Consider appointing a link governor to support the provision and teaching of RE.

- Investigate opportunities for pupils to have 'hands-on' experience of other faiths and to engage with visitors from a multi-cultural society.

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

Pupils speak proudly of their 'church school family' of which they are justly proud. This is borne out by their consistently high levels of attendance and standards of achievement which are above the national average. Pupils learn in a happy and secure Christian environment where they develop into confident and thoughtful individuals with aspirations to succeed. Christian values are deeply embedded and evident in practice around the school. There have been no recent exclusions. Pupils with learning difficulties are nurtured and well supported which helps them to reach their full potential. Pupils of all ages and abilities enjoy RE which is central to the Christian character of the school. Most make good progress because they are encouraged and keen to share their deeper feelings as well as their knowledge of Bible stories and Anglican traditions. The impact of this work on the Christian character of the school was well illustrated in discussions with pupils. Many pupils speak openly about 'the love of God for everyone even for adults!' Other comments such as: 'I think Jesus brings us hope where there is despair and hatred' and 'the Holy Spirit is a flame burning inside you' are common place. Pupils are confident that equality for all is paramount because the school fosters a real sense of belonging and respect for diversity. For example pupils identify with the display entitled 'Children of the World - Join hands in friendship' which is displayed in the entrance. Within a Christian context spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a significant strength. However, opportunities for pupils to have 'hands-on' experience of other major world faiths and engage with visitors from a multi-cultural society are limited. At present there is no link governor to support the teaching of RE and this is an area for development. Pupils are friendly and their behaviour is excellent in all areas of the school. They are adamant that there is no bullying and any problems are dealt with quickly and effectively. Relationships are excellent and pupils mirror the constructive Christian role models set for them by the staff. In all classes there is a sense of humour and fun through learning and pupils of different ages and abilities respond with enthusiasm. A strong focus on encouragement, celebration and reward for academic and personal achievement raises pupils' self-esteem and sense of well-being. Since the last inspection the governing body have deepened their knowledge and understanding of the school's Christian distinctiveness through a closer system of monitoring and evaluation.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is a special and essential part of the school day for the whole community and has a strong impact on pupils' spiritual awareness and their attitude to learning. The organization and delivery of worship is distinctively Christian with a strong focus on Jesus Christ which results in an eager response from pupils who from an early age develop a growing awareness of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The high quality of prayerful worship inspires and excites pupils and adults alike and all are keen and confident to participate. Pupils and adults enjoy collective worship and pupils' attitude and behaviour are exemplary. The effectiveness and impact of worship is well monitored and evaluated and the system has been well developed since the last inspection. A permanent focal point for worship and Christian symbols are clearly visible. Themes for worship are broad and well planned with a firm focus on the Church's Year, Christian festivals and the school's identified Christian values. All teachers and the Rector regularly lead daily worship in school and in the church but the school also seeks opportunities to welcome appropriate visitors to occasionally lead daily worship to extend pupils' experience. In all classes pupils on a rota are actively involved in organizing and presenting daily worship with many taking an independent leading role for their weekly class assemblies. Pupils in the Years 3 and 4 class were observed when two pupils used their own independently researched information to lead their class worship on the theme of the Holy Trinity. This was exceptionally well organised by this young age group with three lighted candles and questions such as 'What does Jesus mean to you?' This was followed by an explanation of the Trinity, stories of Pentecost from the Children's Bible and of St Patrick and the shamrock. Pupils were well involved saying The

Lord's Prayer together and very tunefully singing 'Spirit of Peace come to our waiting world'. Pupils were confident in their presentation and very little adult intervention was required. The whole school act of worship at the end of the day was a peaceful time of reflection for all. Led by the headteacher, pupils and staff engaged well together in worship following the theme of Pentecost with pupils listening and acting out a well chosen story to illustrate the power of the Holy Spirit. Pupils reflected on 'the Holy Spirit is like a hug on the inside' leading to a large number of pupils keen to share their own personal experiences. The question of 'Why is God like an apple?' skilfully developed the idea of the Holy Trinity in three parts.

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

The headteacher's style of leadership inspires and empowers a committed and close-knit team of staff and governors. All members of the leadership and management are of one mind and without exception share the same distinctive Christian values and vision for the school's development. The headteacher and staff work closely together to develop a clear understanding of what makes church schools distinctive with a view to future leadership. The arrangements for collective worship and RE meet the statutory requirements. Standards of achievement are consistently high with most pupils making good progress which is often above the local and national levels. Most pupils make the same good progress in RE and a clearer and more informative system of assessment is being developed which will inform planning and provide pupils with clearer guidelines of how to improve their work. There is a strong focus on the individual needs of the whole child and pupils of all ages and abilities receive the same high quality Christian care, nurture and support which helps them to reach their full potential both personally and academically. The school's self-evaluation is firmly based on its Christian character and ethos which acts as the bedrock upon which the school builds and includes the whole team in the School Development Plan. Links with the church and community are strong and based on a long and pro-active partnership. A Christian distinctiveness committee 'School in Church and Church in School' is in the process of being developed. The adjacent church which is currently being renovated is viewed as an extension to the school with pupils visiting regularly for special services and other activities such as Key Stage 1 children enjoying their PE lessons in church. The school has a good partnership with parents and the biennial parents' survey confirms that the school's Christian ethos is highly valued with comments such as 'a very caring and supportive staff – teachers care about every child' and 'the Christian ethos and good moral code'. The staff, pupils, parents/carers and governors were involved in deciding the school's adopted key values of compassion, trust, friendship, thankfulness and togetherness. The school values the recent training input and support of the diocese in the development of the church school. Pupils are enthusiastically encouraged to identify with the family of church schools within the diocese through attending the annual Church Schools' Festival in Lincoln Cathedral.

SIAMS report May 2013 Uffington Church of England Primary School, Uffington, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 4SU