



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Eastoft Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

Yorkshireside
Eastoft
Scunthorpe
DN17 4PG

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Sheffield

Local authority: North Lincolnshire

Dates of inspection: 9th March 2016

Date of last inspection: 10th February 2010

School's unique reference number: 106936

Headteacher: Angela Hewson

Inspector's name and number: Louise Patterson (310)

School context

Eastoft is a small rural primary school which draws pupils from several local villages. Almost all of the 56 pupils are of white British backgrounds. The same head teacher is in post as at the previous denominational inspection but there have been some staff changes. The school is housed in buildings which have been extended as the need arose. The school utilises every area effectively. The church is very close to the school.

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

- A very deeply embedded Christian ethos, reflected in all areas of the school, which is rooted in the Christian values of love, joy and trust.
- Excellent relationships exist throughout the school and beyond, reflecting the impact of the outstanding leadership demonstrated by the senior leaders and governors of the school.
- Pupils are confident, extremely well-behaved and developing into well rounded individuals in the knowledge that they are loved by God.
- High quality collective worship, religious education and the strong relationship with the local parish form a solid foundation for the Christian life of the school.

Areas to improve

- Ensure assessment within RE is in line with current educational developments, including the self-assessment of pupils.

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

The school's self-evaluation and other public documentation make it very clear that the life and work of the school is rooted firmly in Christian values and that this drives the outstanding Christian ethos. The concepts of love, joy and trust are deeply embedded from the youngest children right through to the Governing body, resulting in a very cohesive and solid foundation for the Christian life of the school. High pupil attainment is developed and encouraged due to all pupils being treated as unique individuals with God given talents with appropriate strategies put in place to secure very good progress. Attendance is higher than the national average demonstrating that pupils enjoy going to school and are encouraged to be the best that they can be at all levels. Behaviour is outstanding with pupils demonstrating high levels of respect and mutual understanding with Golden Rules linked to Biblical references. All staff and other adults are providing outstanding role models. Parents consistently commented positively about the school saying such things as 'pupils are being raised with good values and are becoming more confident because of that', 'there is daily talk about religion and faith - they are proud of it' and 'the staff are all so very kind'. There is a mutually supportive and very hard working staff team who all feel valued and appreciated. There is a conscious effort being made to ensure everyone in school has a voice, even the very youngest pupils. As pupils commented 'we love and trust each other here', 'our Golden Rules are based on what God says' and 'our school is just perfect as it is'. There are very good relationships with the local and wider community with the school being central to the life of the village in many ways. Though there has been a quite lengthy interregnum, the relationship with the local parish remains a strength of the school with regular mutually supportive interactions. The spiritual dimension is evident in many areas and aspects of school life resulting in pupils who are reflective, appreciate quiet times and prayer. The carefully considered residential trip undertaken by the older children enhances their spiritual development alongside their personal development. The Capturing Spirituality in Our Children book shows evidence that this dimension of the school is high on the agenda. Pupils are well prepared for life in the diverse communities beyond Eastoft, having been given the tools and opportunities to develop educationally, personally and spiritually in this outstanding church school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.

Worship is a fundamental aspect of the life of the school as a Christian community and is having a very positive impact on the lives of all involved in it. It provides an appropriate balance of activities with regular opportunities for the development of the spiritual dimension through music, prayers and periods of quiet reflection. These are taken up with enthusiasm by pupils of all ages. There is a clear understanding that the teachings of Jesus can be lived out through the daily acknowledgement of the Christian values of love, joy and trust. Both pupils and staff are actively engaged in the worship being delivered and clearly enjoy the experience. Prayer is a strong feature of worship with pupils encouraged to write their own prayers and even the younger pupils knowing The Lord's Prayer. There is very good use made of Biblical content, with passages used alongside stories relating appropriately to the theme from the scheme 12 Baskets. Pupils enjoy and take pride in the opportunities to lead aspects of worship, which culminates in the older children planning and leading worship on a regular basis. There is an understanding of difficult Christian concepts. Pupils can articulate with some confidence the concept of the Trinity with a younger child saying 'it's three in one - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit'. Christian worship is well planned by the head teacher who regularly evaluates the impact and makes improvements where necessary. She utilises a rota of two pupils, 'Worship Works', who ask other pupils questions about worship, which develop into actions. Major Christian festivals are celebrated in church, which pupils, parents and the local community clearly enjoy. Parents commented that pupils are 'encouraged to have calm times' and 'school is giving the children a very good grounding in faith'.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding.

Pupils are making progress at least in line with national expectations and are attaining to a similar if not deeper level. Teaching and learning observed was mostly outstanding and never less than

good. Pupils are being actively encouraged to be independent learners, with excellent use being made of stepped learning objectives. These are especially well used in conjunction with mini plenaries within lessons to check progress and understanding of all learners at a given point. This ensures that all pupils are fully aware of their own personal targets and are being constantly encouraged to exceed these. When questioned, pupils throughout school demonstrated an extensive and thorough understanding of Christian concepts with a depth which indicates they have experienced outstanding teaching and learning over time. Pupils are developing an appropriate understanding of world faiths. All who teach the subject are highly committed to the subject and are highly skilled in delivery. There is a real sense that the subject is making a significant contribution to the school as a religious community. Developing the Agreed Syllabus into a cohesive scheme has given the staff confidence in delivery and the coverage of the skills, knowledge and understanding they wish to be integral to the RE delivered in the school. There is evidence of formal monitoring of teaching and learning taking place with classroom observations and book sampling alongside other curriculum areas. This leads to continuous reflection and improvement within the subject. Marking is to a very high standard; pupils respond to the comments made and consequently know how to improve their work. The co-ordinator also monitors planning to ensure variety and reflective practice. Pupils say that they enjoy the subject and the teachers 'make it fun'. The subject is being very well led and managed by the co-ordinator. Appropriate training and the support of the diocese are having a positive impact. The subject is very well placed to move from strength to strength.

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

The extremely enthusiastic and committed Christian leadership and management provided by the headteacher and governing body contribute significantly to the success of this outstanding church school and in the high standards of achievement and well-being of all pupils. The Christian vision of the school is very effectively promoted and evidenced in the high quality relationships, public documents, website and school badge. The constant focus on the Christian values of love, joy and trust emphasises the very positive impact of this tread running throughout the Christian distinctiveness of the school. There is an outstanding team spirit with the whole staff being actively committed to the church school ethos, resulting in their development as potential leaders. All adults within the school are excellent role models and provide inspiration for the high expectations of behaviour, care and respect for the individual, which are all significant characteristics of Eastoft Church School. There continue to be strong, mutually supportive links with the local parish. The local church provides support for the school both practically and spiritually. There are strong and productive links with the diocese which are greatly appreciated by both school and subject leadership. Relationships with parents are excellent; as a parent commented 'there is an underlying caring attitude in school' and 'there is always someone to help'. They greatly appreciate the truly open door policy of the school. Pupils say that they have an effective voice within the school with both individuals and 'Pupils of Power' (school council) being heard and their voice valued in the continued growth and development of the school. The self-evaluation carried out by the school is accurate. The school meets the statutory requirements in both RE and collective worship. The schools strong leadership and staff, supported by the local church, excellent governors and the diocese, is very well placed to continue to move forward within its Christian foundation.