



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Langley Mill Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Infant School and Nursery

Sedgwick Street
Langley Mill
Nottinghamshire
NG16 4DT

Previous SIAS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: 10th March 2016

Date of last inspection: 10th January 2011

School's unique reference number: 112827

Headteacher: Karen Scrivens

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

School context

Langley Mill Church of England Infant School and Nursery is slightly smaller than average but has a very high proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals. The majority of pupils are from white British backgrounds and there is a higher than average number of pupils identified with additional needs. There are a considerable number of pupils who either join or leave the school throughout the year. A significant proportion of pupils are in circumstances which make them potentially vulnerable. There are two churches in close proximity to the school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Langley Mill Church of England VC Infant School and Nursery as a Church of England school are outstanding.

- Pupils are loved, extremely well cared for and treated as individuals. They are benefiting from a highly supportive, effective and distinctly Christian ethos which is deeply rooted in Christian values.
- The headteacher and governing body, along with all staff, are passionate about the development of every child, to reach their full potential as a child of God.
- Very high quality collective worship which is making a significant contribution to the spiritual development of all involved.
- The positive and fruitful actions on all previous areas to improve from the previous church school inspection.

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

The very supportive ethos, relationships within the school and the treatment of every child as a child of God make it very clear that the life and work of the school is firmly rooted in Christian values. Christian values are being lived out on a daily basis which has a very positive impact on the whole school community. It is evident in such areas as the exceptional quality of care and deep respect for each other, the good behaviour of pupils and very high quality classroom practice. Pupils are able to articulate what it means for them to go to a church school, saying such things as, 'we like to talk about Jesus and God' and 'we get to use the prayer area whenever we want to - I use it all the time'. Pupil attainment is generally in line with national averages. Pupils entering the school are often below national averages and their good progress is a reflection of the quality of the attention to the needs of the individual and the teachers' commitment to the school as a Christian institution. Attendance is above average and pupils say that they love coming to school and that they feel 'really, really safe' and well cared for there. These and non-academic achievements are celebrated regularly which both pupils and parents greatly appreciate and enjoy. Religious education is given a high priority in the school. Lesson observations, work and planning scrutiny by the head teacher indicate a well delivered and engaging area of the curriculum which is having a significant impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of both pupils and staff. RE is effectively assessed, monitored and evaluated alongside other core areas of the curriculum. Pupils are developing a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths. The very strong team approach is indicative of the highly positive, hardworking and caring staff team. The Children's Learning Support Worker makes an outstanding contribution to the school as a caring, safe and supportive place for pupils to make the best progress possible. All adults within the school are providing excellent role models of hard work, care and love of the individual child. This results in pupils who are well behaved and have a very positive attitude towards the school as a Christian community. There is an extremely mutually supportive relationship with the local church. Pupils visit the church on a regular basis for both education and worship, which they enjoy immensely. Local clergy and church members are familiar figures who actively promote the Christian ethos of the school in their role as foundation governors. The links between the church and school are an outstanding feature of the school. Parents speak very highly of the school as a church school. They say such things as 'I can't praise the school highly enough', 'it is a Christian family' and 'there is genuine love of all the children'. They say that they are kept very well informed about their child and school events and really appreciate the lengths to which the school goes in supporting every child.

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

The high quality worship observed plays a central part in the life of the school which has a very positive impact on both staff and pupils. There are many opportunities for the development of the spiritual dimension such as prayers and periods of quiet reflection being clearly in evidence. Good use is being made of music to enhance the spiritual dimension with pupils listening intently. Pupils commented that they enjoy times in worship saying, 'if we didn't have it I would really miss talking to God'. The very thoughtfully planned theme for the week is introduced on the Monday and is followed throughout the week. This creates opportunities for pupils to talk about any issues or questions they may have, ensuring a deeper understanding of worship and the spiritual dimension. Prayer is a very strong feature of the school with prayers being said at times throughout the day and the prayer place in the library area being very well used by pupils of all ages. Pupils enjoy and take pride in the opportunities to lead prayers and prepare the hall for worship. Pupils can articulate at their level an understanding of the colours used in the church year along with the symbols of 'God the Father' (a Bible), 'God the Son' (a cross) and 'God the Holy Spirit' (a candle) as they take them from a box. Christian worship is meticulously planned by the headteacher, who very ably coordinates both worship and religious education, alongside staff, governors and clergy. Staff are happy to deliver worship and attend worship on a daily basis. There is regular and effective monitoring of worship by foundation governors with areas for development informing action plans

or the School Development Plan. Worship offers a variety of opportunities and approaches which are taken up enthusiastically. Visitors follow the school's planning for worship thus creating a coherent and cohesive whole. Parents and other members of the community enjoy attending school worship which takes place in the church on a regular basis. This is enhancing the appreciation and understanding of Christian practice. There is agreement from all involved in these services that they are important and greatly enhance the Christian dimension of the school. A parent commented, 'we love being involved in Christian performances'. Views of those attending worship is elicited on a regular basis, resulting in evaluative and reflective practice. Through careful monitoring and evaluation the school has a clear picture of current practice and experience within worship.

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

The school leadership has a very clear and distinct Christian vision for the school which is actively supported by foundation governors and staff who are fully committed to all that involves including accurate and insightful self-evaluation and the continuous pursuit of excellence. There is a consistency of message and intent throughout the school as a caring, loving and nurturing Christian community, resulting in pupils and staff who feel safe and are developing to their full potential. As a foundation governor commented, 'God is a very real part of this school'. The whole school community understands the importance and relevance of the Christian foundation of the school and pupils and parents appreciate everything the school does for them. The school values the very good relationship it has with parents. Parents are highly complementary about the leadership and management of the school and the care and nurture allowing their children to develop academically, spiritually and personally. They commented, 'there is always someone to talk to' and 'the head teacher knows all the children really well and knows what will help them'. Creative ways are being employed to ensure pupils have an effective voice in the feedback process. This enables even the youngest children to effectively express ideas about spirituality at their level. The headteacher and foundation governors regularly attend appropriate training delivered by the diocese which impacts directly on the quality of input they have to the distinctiveness of this outstanding church school. Foundation governors are acutely aware of their role within the wider governing body and are tenacious in their promotion of the Christian distinctiveness both within meetings and school. As part of their monitoring role they undertake regular monitoring visits and maintain an open and fruitful dialogue with the school. This ongoing and consistent monitoring ensures that the church school distinctiveness is at its heart with all public documentation referring to the church school status. Christian values are lived out as part of the everyday life of the school. The school has all the elements in place to ensure that the focus on the distinctiveness and effectiveness of its' Christian foundation continue to thrive and develop into the future.

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