



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Walsgrave Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School House Lane
Walsgrave
Coventry
CV2 2BA

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Coventry

Local authority: Coventry

Date of inspection: 11th June 2015

Date of last inspection: June 2010

School's unique reference number: 103700

Executive Headteacher: Kim Docking Headteacher: Rob Darling

Inspector's name and number: Rosemary Privett 321

School context

Walsgrave is a significantly larger than average suburban primary school. The percentage of pupils with English as an additional language is increasing. The number of pupils with special educational needs is average. In July 2011 the governing body was requested to form a federation with another local primary school. A formal federation was established in 2012 with a federated governing body, a third school joined the federation in 2013. As part of the federated arrangements, a new head of school has been appointed at Walsgrave. The federation is currently in the process of converting to a multi academy trust.

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

- Christian values shape, support and sustain the academic achievement, personal development and well being of all pupils.
- Relationships at all levels are informed by Christian values and guarantee a high level of pastoral support for all members of the school community.
- The high quality of worship and religious education [RE] enables pupils to develop into caring and compassionate individuals.
- The mutually supportive links between the school, the church and the community enable the school's distinctive character to grow and develop.

Areas to improve

- Through training, plan ways in which pupils can engage in quality experiences across the curriculum in order to develop a personal spirituality.

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

The school's mission statement 'Together we achieve, individually we grow', effectively shapes and determines priorities. This is because there is an unswerving focus on allowing children to become the person God means them to be. Since the last inspection the school now ensures that explicit Christian values permeate all aspects of school life so that pupils are loved, motivated and feel respected. Consequently, they learn in a safe and secure environment where their well-being is of paramount importance. This creates an extremely positive climate for learning, which leads to high academic standards and progress above, or well above national expectations. Values such as respect, compassion, forgiveness and friendship are acknowledged to be at the heart of the excellent relationships between adults and children. Pupils are able to make links between the school's values and the choices they make. A Year 6 pupil said, 'Values remind us of how Jesus wants us to live and help us with life discussions.' Values also strongly underpin the work of the learning mentor who provides a high level of support to pupils and their families. Her strong sense of vocation has made a significant contribution to the improving trend in attendance. As an expression of the school's values pupils demonstrate responsibility towards others. This helps them develop a strong sense of social awareness which drives significant fund-raising activities. Pupils' spiritual development is well supported through interactive 'worship walls' in each classroom. These areas are creatively planned to match the needs of each year group. They encourage pupils to reflect on the worship theme offering thoughts and personal prayers. The school has correctly identified that experiences that help pupils to reflect on the spiritual dimension across its creative curriculum, are in the early stages of development. The religious education curriculum, together with the daily act of worship make an outstanding contribution to the spiritual moral social and cultural development of pupils, ensuring that they understand the roots of the values within the Christian faith. Through RE and a vibrant thematic curriculum, children are developing an understanding of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith. They have a very good understanding of diversity and difference. A Year 6 pupil said, 'We need to learn about other religions so we can respect and treat other fairly even though we may not believe what they do.'

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Outstanding collective worship is at the heart of school life. It is inspirational and inclusive at all levels – staff and children are able to talk about the positive impact worship has on their lives. All participate with enthusiasm engendering a real sense of unity. Worship is an extension of the school's core purpose that is highly focused on the development of the whole child. This, underpinned by themes which explore key Christian values, ensures children are developing into caring and compassionate individuals. Since the last inspection the programme of worship has been effectively enhanced to ensure a sound theological basis to worship themes. These themes encourage reflection, particularly among the children leading to actions for example in the charitable work of the school. Through worship, pupils understand the importance of prayer and readily engage in opportunities to do so. They offer personal prayers in class prayer boxes and share the prayers they have written at lunchtime and at the end of the day. The daily act of worship enhances the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. A whole school thematic day on the Trinity has made an outstanding contribution to developing pupils' understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The sensitive development of the worship space also reinforces the symbolism of the Trinity on a daily basis. For example, a group of three different sized candles on the worship table, enables pupils to engage in mature conversations about aspects of the Trinity. A Year 5 pupil said, 'The spirit can guide us now as Jesus is no longer on the earth.' The Faith Alive group has continued to develop since the last inspection. It meets weekly with the RE coordinator. Under her careful guidance the group makes a strong contribution to the worshipping life of the school worship. They write prayers for the prayer trees and make items for the focal table. In response to a development area from the last inspection, they also regularly plan and lead

aspects of worship throughout the school. Pupils regularly attend and take part in worship at St Mary's, taking the lead during important festivals in the church year. This enables them to have a sound understanding of the meaning behind these occasions. The impact of worship is effectively monitored and evaluated by the coordinator and foundation governors. Each week, a team of pupils now organizes the collection of pupils' thoughts and feelings on acts of worship. The coordinator uses this reflective journal to evaluate the effectiveness of worship ensuring that it continues to inspire and engage.

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

The strong and insightful leadership of the headteacher and executive headteacher ensure that this school promotes a distinctly Christian vision within the federation. This is rooted in its core Christian values. Their expectations for the best possible education for all pupils and high standards of achievement within a caring Christian environment are passionately expressed. Through their nurturing ethos they ensure that this is a highly effective school, which promotes pupils' spiritual development and high academic achievement. All staff are valued and are outstanding role models for high expectations in care and respect for each other. This leads to an atmosphere in school of a family unit where everyone is valued and made to feel special. The staff is underpinned by a group of supportive governors who firmly believe in the value of their team. Senior leaders, including governors demonstrate a determination for the continued development of the school as a church school. This means that the school has continued to grow and develop since the last inspection. Self-evaluation as a church school involves pupils and adults. It is accurate and managed efficiently with robust procedures to ensure the school never stands still. The thread of the school's distinctive Christian character runs through all its development priorities. Leaders and governors, supported by church members, show a very high degree of pastoral concern for all members of the school community. This is illustrated well by the way in which leaders have responded to tragic situations involving pupils and parents. Responsibility for the school's Christian character is consistently given a high profile in the leadership structure of the school. There is a very strong focus on professional development that contributes significantly to developing leadership across the federation. As a result of this, highly effective middle leaders ensure that Christian values are embedded across the teaching of RE and the work of the school council. Outstanding leadership of worship and RE also ensures that not only do they meet statutory requirements but they also help to define the school's Christian character. The vicar has a positive influence on the school's life and work. Together with the foundation governors, he fosters positive links with the parish enabling the school's vision to be shared and widely understood. Through his presence on the strategic board of the federation, he ensures that the distinctive Christian character of the school is always upheld. Links with the diocese such as the 'Trinity' day make a strong contribution to the ongoing development of the school's Christian character. The school has also developed a wide variety of other links, including visits to local groups and fund raising. This enables its values to be lived out for the benefit the local community.

SIAMS report June 2015 Walsgrave CE VC Primary School, Coventry CV2 2BA