



## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### Harlaxton Church of England Primary School

Swineshill  
Harlaxton  
Grantham  
Lincolnshire  
NG32 1HT

**Previous SIAMS Grade: Good**

**Current Inspection Grade: Outstanding**

**Diocese: Lincoln**

Local authority: Lincolnshire  
Date of inspection: 5 February 2016  
Date of last inspection: April 2011  
School's unique reference number: 120525  
Executive Headteacher: Sheriden Edwards  
Inspector's name and number: John Gibbs 818

#### School context

The school is smaller than average having 210 children on roll. The number of pupils in receipt of pupil premium and the percentage of ethnic minority children is below average. Almost all pupils come from White British backgrounds. The proportion of children with special educational needs and disabilities is below the national average. The school is a ten minute walk away from St Mary and St Peter Church. In September 2012 the school federated with another Church of England primary school which is one mile away. The schools share an executive head and governing body.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Harlaxton Church of England School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The Christian ethos of this school is all encompassing. An inclusive Christian environment incorporates extremely positive teaching and learning experiences which enable pupils to make good progress and achieve well.
- Pupils' behave exceptionally well and the school's Christian outlook has a major impact on their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.
- Pupils understand the importance of helping others and give of their best in an impressive manner. Relationships between all members of the school community are clearly linked to the Christian values of the school.

#### Areas to improve

- Establish a collective worship council to ensure the pupil voice is effective in delivering and evaluating worship.
- Create a spiritual garden in the school grounds in order to widen children's personal reflection experiences.

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

This is an extremely happy and caring school where Christian values such as friendship, equality and respect underpin the whole school day. These values are seen to impact positively on the experiences of all the pupils. This together with effective teaching and learning experiences underpins the improving standards of achievement in all areas of the curriculum. The senior leadership team provides very effective Christian leadership and pupils are very well supported both academically and personally within an extremely positive environment. Pupils speak warmly about the friendly nature of the school and also the variety of experiences offered during the school day. As one pupil said, 'The teachers are very friendly and children get on really well with each other.' The above average level of attendance and absence of exclusions are the result of positive encouragement and high behaviour expectations. Pupils and adults speak proudly of the difference made by the school's Christian values. The school makes good use of its environment to celebrate its Christian foundation and to nurture the SMSC development of pupils. Visits and visitors broaden the range of understanding of diversity offered to the pupils. Pupils readily identify the school's values with those seen in the Bible and the life of Jesus. These underpin the school's clear behaviour policy. As a result pupils are able to describe the way that Christian values affect their decisions both in and out of school. Religious education (RE) makes a very positive contribution to pupil's SMSC development. It supports pupils' growing knowledge of Christianity and the other major world religions and enables their sound understanding and respect for diverse communities. Pupils demonstrate good knowledge of the major events in the life of Jesus and speak positively about their RE lessons. There is regular input from the incumbent and other members of the church community which has a strong impact on the pupils' knowledge of Christianity. The relationships between all members of the school community are very good. This is because they are based on the school's values which ensure that respect, friendship and equality are always high on the agenda. Parents speak positively of the care and concern shown for each child. They value the influence of the school's distinctively Christian ethos and as one parent said, 'The links between the school and the church are really important and make this a better school.' Pupils are motivated to support and fundraise for a wide range of charities at a local, national and worldwide level. One child said, 'It is important to help people who are less fortunate so that they have the same chances as us. This makes us feel better about ourselves.'

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

The daily act of distinctively Christian worship is central to the life of this school. It is an enriching occasion recognised as a time for reflection, prayer and celebration. The impact of worship is high because it is well planned and effectively monitored and evaluated. The result is collective worship of a high quality which is particularly effective in developing the children's personal spirituality. Worship celebrates the school's Christian values in an uplifting manner. It is recognised and appreciated by pupils as a time to come together to think about Jesus and celebrate God's wonderful world. Bible stories are used frequently and the children are able to speak about the impact of their experiences with perception and obvious enjoyment. Collective worship is led by various personnel including staff, members of local clergy, the bishop's visitor and other outside speakers and also the children themselves. It is well planned and regular evaluation by the senior leaders and governors ensures high quality of delivery. Consequently the impact of worship is extremely high. Pupils show a highly developed knowledge of the concept of The Trinity with thoughtful comments on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. One pupil said, 'The Holy Spirit lives inside us and gives us confidence and inspiration.' Pupils are enthusiastic and positive about the wide variety of collective worship experiences provided by the school. They express their excitement at their involvement in helping and delivering worship. Additionally they welcome the idea of having a school forum where their ideas would be more formally implemented. There is a strong relationship between the school and the local church. This is echoed by parents who welcome the opportunity to participate in acts of

worship both at the school and also at the parish church. Inclusion is ensured through the selection of a very effective and broad set of themes that link with an emphasis on Christian values, current affairs and also RE. The church's year underpins the programme enabling good provision for developing understanding of Anglican tradition and practice. Pupils' attitude to prayer is respectful and very positive. There are many occasions for prayer and reflection on a daily basis which the children value. Although each classroom has a reflection area outside spaces are less well developed. The school has rightly established plans to develop an outside area for this.

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

The effectiveness of the senior leadership team and governors in developing the school's Christian ethos is exceptional. They confidently and clearly articulate a shared vision for the school based on distinctive Christian values. This is shared extensively with the whole school community and is clearly expressed in documentation. This includes comprehensive action plans for both RE and collective worship. This Christian vision impacts positively on the improving standards of achievement in the school. There is a highly effective programme of staff development which helps prepare staff as future leaders of church schools. The quality of the partnership between the school, the local community and diocese is excellent. Self-evaluation is realistic and effective which makes the school's approach to improving standards robust. RE and collective worship meet statutory requirements and are well led and managed leading to excellent practice. The executive headteacher and senior teachers, supported by governors and clergy model active Christian leadership. This has a positive impact on the well-being of the whole school family. Team spirit in the school is high and members of staff are positive about relationships within the school. Parents see the school's Christian values as a key reason for choosing the school. They acknowledge the way that links between the school and the parish church are helping pupils to develop their understanding of Christian worship and practice. The issues for development highlighted in the last inspection have been met in full.

SIAMS Report February 2016 Harlaxton Church of England Primary School, Lincolnshire NG32 1HT