



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Kneesall Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

School Lane
Kneesall
Newark
NG22 0AB

Diocese: Southwell and Nottingham

Local authority: Nottinghamshire
Dates of inspection: 23rd May 2013
Date of last inspection: 30th April 2008
School's unique reference number: 122762
Headteacher: Mrs Sue Ilett-Coupe
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Louise Patterson (310)

School context.

Kneesall Church of England Primary School is a smaller than average sized primary school set in the rural village of Kneesall. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds and are drawn from several villages, attracted by the school's excellent reputation in the community. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and those supported by the pupil premium are below average. There has been a period of stability and enrichment with a stable and experienced staff team.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Kneesall (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

A deeply embedded and confidently articulated Christian ethos enhances positive values and attitudes to teaching and learning. High pupil academic achievement is supported by the care, respect and compassion demonstrated on a daily basis. The teachings of Jesus are evident throughout the school. Pupils are happy, confident and enthusiastic. Everyone is impacted by the Christian foundation of the school and even the youngest children have a concept of what it means.

Established strengths

- Excellent relationships between all stakeholders and in the wider community reflecting the impact of the outstanding Christian ethos.
- High quality collective worship which is making a significant impact on the Christian foundation and spiritual development of all those involved.
- Very well behaved and polite pupils who have a strong sense of personal responsibility and care towards others resulting from the school's focus on Christian values.

Focus for development

- Involve pupils more actively in the planning and delivery of worship.
- Develop global links in order to ensure pupils have wider horizons and appreciate the world wide church.

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

The school's self-evaluation and other 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. This is

reflected in the most recent mission statement which was instigated by the School Council. High pupil attainment is enhanced because all pupils are treated as unique individuals with God given talents and appropriate interventions are put in place to secure anticipated progress which data indicates is well above national expectations. The teachings of Jesus are reflected in the care, respect and compassion demonstrated by the whole school community. Attendance is higher than the national average as pupils enjoy going to school and appreciate all the efforts being made for them. Behaviour is outstanding with pupils demonstrating high levels of confidence and maturity. There have been no exclusions. Pupils have a positive outlook towards school which is enhanced by very supportive staff and parents. Parents commented about the school 'there is a very strong sense of community and family ethos', 'there is a real link with the Christian ethos and the way they behave' and 'their etiquette goes along with belief'. There is a mutually supportive, trusting and very hard working staff team who all feel valued. There is a culture of praise, reward and being listened to, which is impacting the pupils and staff in a very positive way. As pupils commented 'teachers value everybody' and 'there is always someone to turn to no matter what'. There are very good relationships with the local and wider community including positive involvement with pupil chosen charities. The relationship with the local parish is a strength of the school with regular mutually supportive interactions. There is an appropriate and engaging religious education curriculum in place which is eliciting high attainment comparable with other core subjects; pupils achieving at least in line with expectation. It reflects the emphasis on the spiritual which remains an outstanding feature of the school. Pupils are very well prepared for life beyond Kneesall as a parent commented 'they go with a confidence and a desire to join in'.

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

Worship plays a central part in the life of the school with both staff and pupils seeing it as such. The development of the spiritual dimension of all involved in the worship and elsewhere is a strength of the school. As a governor commented 'the spiritual side is catered for beautifully' and 'opportunities are taken to widen access to spiritual awareness'. Prayer is a strong feature within worship and throughout the school. There is a strong emphasis on the spiritual dimension with regular prayer throughout the day and reflection being valued and given appropriate time and encouragement. A parent commented 'where ever they are, in a field or up a mountain, they expect to pray'. The development of the spiritual garden is a tangible reflection of this. There is an emphasis on children being actively encouraged to have valued opinions both in and out of the classroom. The church calendar with the relevant concepts is used effectively to develop understanding of the Trinity and key Christian teaching. The worship coordinator plans appropriate themes and regularly attends training offered by the diocese. Though pupils clearly enjoy worshipping together and fully engage with it, they are not involved in regular planning and delivery. They have demonstrated a high level of knowledge and understanding of important Christian ideas by planning a very moving Easter worship. Worship offers a variety of opportunities and approaches which are taken up enthusiastically. Questioning and exploration are actively encouraged with pupils having the confidence to do this. There is regular informal feedback elicited from pupils, staff and governors more formal written comments inform development.

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

The school leadership has a very clear Christian vision for the school which is actively supported by foundation governors and staff who are fully committed to all that it involves in self-evaluation and the pursuit of continuous development. As the headteacher commented 'My every choice and action is rooted in Christian values'. It is made clear to new parents from the outset what being part of this church school means and pupils have a clear, common understanding. The whole school community understands the importance and relevance of the Christian foundation of the school. The school highly values the outstanding relationship it has with parents. The headteacher regularly attends appropriate training and is well supported by colleagues in similar situations in the two local small schools. Relationships with the local church and diocese are very productive and mutually supportive. Tangible and mutually beneficial links with the diocese and wider church are clearly in evidence. Global links have been identified as an area for development. There is an effective pupil voice and all pupils take on their responsibilities with enthusiasm. The school fulfills its' statutory requirements. There is potential for future leadership development with the headteacher possibly becoming responsible for another church school and staff promotions to other schools. Good pupil progress throughout the school is underpinned by the outstanding Christian ethos evidenced in the living out of the values and messages of Jesus.

SIAMS report [May 2013] [Kneesall (VC) Primary School, Nottinghamshire] [NG22 0AB]

