



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Wainfleet Magdalen Church of England/Methodist Primary School

Magdalen Road
Skegness
Lincolnshire
PE24 4DD

Previous SIAMS grade: Satisfactory

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: 3 February 2016

Date of last inspection: March 2011

School's unique reference number: 120668

Headteacher: Gareth Smith

Inspector's name and number: Lizzie McWhirter 244

School context

This Church of England/Methodist School serves children and their families in an area with high levels of mobility in the town of Wainfleet, near Skegness. It converted to an Academy in April 2014 as part of the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust. There are 189 pupils on roll who are almost all from a White British background. The proportion of pupils who are vulnerable, receive pupil premium funding, or have special educational needs is higher than average. The deputy headteacher was appointed as substantive headteacher in November 2012.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Wainfleet Magdalen as a Church of England/Methodist school are outstanding

- The unswerving Christian vision and dedication of the leadership and management of this school ensures its Christian character shines through all school life.
- This school is a welcoming, inclusive and nurturing Christian community, which serves all children and their families.
- The worshipping life of this joint Methodist/Anglican school, where prayer and reflection on the Ten Magdalen Values enrich the daily lives and spiritual journeys of everyone.
- The school chaplain is integral to the life of this school, providing an excellent role model within the context of a local Christian community.

Areas to improve

- Deepen pupils' understanding of the worldwide Christian Church and enable them to meet people of other faiths to enhance their learning and nurture their spiritual and cultural development.
- Embed key Christian concepts to enrich pupils' religious literacy.

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

Wainfleet Magdalen provides an excellent learning environment which successfully rejoices that, 'in God's hands we can succeed and achieve together'. This is because this school models and lives by its chosen Ten Magdalen Values which everyone can explain in their own words. This is very well summed up in 'always building friendships with one another, whilst being thankful for what we have. Remembering to forgive when we have been wronged and hoping to help others less fortunate than ourselves. Determined to show compassion for those around us and develop a community that embraces justice and peace while trying hard each day to trust other people around us through humility and service'. These values make a positive difference to the lives of the children and their families. Relationships are excellent because all members of this inclusive family community continually demonstrate these core Christian values. As a result, pupils thrive in the Christian culture and ethos which this school creates and which positively encourages them. Mutual trust and compassion shown to parents, working closely with them in supportive ways, enables good attendance. In addition, this school is very proud of being an accommodating school, modelling forgiveness and justice. They successfully include and nurture pupils who come from many different backgrounds, following Jesus' example in the Bible. Consequently, pupils enjoy coming to school, are proud to belong, feel valued and achieve well, given their starting points. All groups of children, especially those who are vulnerable, make good progress and are supported by a dedicated team of staff whose priority is the children. Christian values play a huge part in children's learning. Moreover, all God's children are valued and how every pupil develops in God's image is very much part of this school's vision. All the school's policies are very inclusive and all are welcome. This extends to the school policy and practice on coping with sexist and homophobic incidents. Pupils cite the peace tree or buddy bench to go to, should there be a need 'to sort an argument out'. A number of extra-curricular activities, including choir and the chance to play musical instruments, enables a greater range of achievement. Pupils show respect for diverse cultures and beliefs through religious education [RE] and worship, which make good contributions to the school's Christian character and to pupils' personal development. Pupils enjoy RE, using drama, such as hot seating characters to ask important questions. Asking Mother Teresa, 'What did God say to you?' is a good example of such an activity. Most pupils can explain the Christian story in their own words. They speak of Jesus being born as 'God coming down as the new king and Lord'. This shows their religious literacy is good. They can explain John Wesley's rule, but are less sure about the meaning of covenant. However, the school acknowledges that deepening pupils' understanding of the worldwide Christian Church is an area for development. It also correctly identifies the need to embed key Christian concepts to enrich pupils' religious literacy. The school has also rightly identified that pupils' experiences of diversity of faith is enriched by meeting more people of faith and visiting their places of worship.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is a recognised strength where inspiring and engaging worship is experienced by the whole school community. A hallmark of Wainfleet Magdalen's daily worship is building the cross as the community comes together. This is the heart of worship. Each class contributes a cube with important symbols and Bible verses meaningful to them as the different pieces of the jigsaw fit together as one. Children bring the altar down to symbolise the Methodist way of bringing worship close to the people and the children. The sacred space of worship enables children to understand the Ten Magdalen Christian values and life in a Christian context. The school's core value are woven onto the church and school year, with pupils making links between the Bible stories and their own lives. It enables time and space for personal prayer and reflection. Prayerful worship contributes greatly to everyone's spiritual journeys. Pupils enjoy writing their own prayers and say they pray at home too. Those read out in public worship are marked with shiny paper. This includes pupils' own prayers which are read out at the start of governor meetings. Pupils explain, 'when Jesus shines in your life, being kind and using our school values is helping others'. The school chaplain who is also the Methodist minister, works

in partnership with the newly appointed parish priest to ensure the links with the two churches and the school are integral to school life. Pupils are greatly involved. The collective worship council work closely with the school chaplain, who is instrumental in the life of the school. They meet with the chaplain and a committed teaching assistant four times a term to plan worship. Pupil voice is gathered from all classes to inform worship developments. A good example of this is that the school now meets in a horseshoe shape as they 'come together to think about God'. Clergy are in school every week, leading worship and helping children to understand different levels of symbolism and belief, including The Holy Trinity. This shows the very good partnership between church and school. The school chaplain has worked closely with pupils for the last eighteen months to help them understand the mystery of The Holy Trinity. This has resulted in the plait of different colours, representing each part of the Trinity, which this community and other schools have found helpful. Pupils say they enjoy saying the Trinitarian 'Messy Grace' with actions as 'at the end of the meeting it always puts happiness in my heart'. They go on to say how 'the Bible readings explain how we can use our school values'. They reflect on the hymns they sing in worship and say they see 'the spirit of God and Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps me to make the right choices. Jesus said the Holy Spirit comes to his disciples and he promised everlasting life'. However, some pupils are less secure in their knowledge about Ascension and of the saints after whom their four houses are named.

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

At Wainfleet Magdalen the headteacher and governors have a strong and unswerving Christian vision for the school. Consequently the Ten Magdalen core values are central to the direction of this school where all God's children are valued and succeed. Governors regularly focus on the distinctive Christian character of this church school in governing body meetings. RE and collective worship are part of the thoroughly robust and regular cycle of review as part of the school development plan. For example, every observer to worship also monitors worship. Collective worship promotes the wellbeing of pupils and parents. This includes using both parish church and Methodist chapel. The school chaplain is a welcome and regular visitor to school, not just leading worship, but also reading to pupils and in many other ways. Indeed, he is an excellent role model of what Christian mission and ministry in a local community looks like. The headteacher leads both worship and RE, which is regarded as a core subject. Consequently, RE and worship meet statutory requirements and are well led, managed and resourced. All areas from the previous inspection have been addressed and there are clear priorities for future action. Governors successfully promote the wellbeing of staff and support their training needs. This includes future leadership of church schools. There is excellent support from the diocese and the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust. The school is also well served by outside agencies and advisers who praise the work of the school and the journey it has travelled. Pupils have a voice through the school council, with the school embarking on the Archbishop of York's Young Leaders Award, encouraging their roles and responsibilities. Parents say they are very thankful to the school for all they do for their children and for them as parents. They praise the extra support as 'amazing'. They go on to speak highly of the children's learning, especially in worship and RE and how they 'have faith that God is listening'. Parents show trust in the school because the school is very welcoming to them and listens to them as 'your opinion counts'. They say 'there is no bullying or meanness, just happiness'. They cite the teachers knowing every child's name and the integrated sports day as good examples. Thus, everyone works together exceedingly well to ensure the school's Christian distinctiveness and mission to the poor and vulnerable is celebrated and preserved.

SIAMS report February 2016 Wainfleet Magdalen CE/Methodist Primary School, Wainfleet, Lincolnshire PE24 4DD