



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Baston Church of England Primary School

Main Street
Baston
Peterborough
PE6 9PB

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: 10 October 2014

Date of last inspection: 13 October 2009

School's unique reference number: 120514

Head teacher: Rebecca Mills

Inspector's name and number: John Gibbs 818

School context

The school is smaller than average having 182 children on roll. The number of pupils in receipt of pupil premium and ethnic minority children is well below average. The proportion of children with special educational needs and disabilities is below the national average. The school and the Parish Church of St John the Baptist are in close proximity. The school has large grounds and houses a forest school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Baston Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The Christian Foundation of this school is well established and explicit. Christian values are understood, shared, and lived out on a daily basis by all members of the school community
- A supportive Christian environment incorporates good quality teaching and learning experiences which enable pupils to make good progress and achieve well
- The Church and wider community contribute to the life of the school in a way that enhances the learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Areas to improve

- Create a forum which enables pupils to explore deeper questions about religion with adults from the school community including clergy
- Widen the children's understanding of diversity and difference in order that they will have a greater appreciation of the worldwide nature of the Christian faith
- Establish a programme of succession planning for senior staff that impacts positively on the future leadership of church schools

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

This is a happy and caring school where Christian values underpin all aspects of the school's daily life and impact strongly on the experiences of all the pupils. The headteacher provides very effective Christian leadership and pupils are well supported within a very caring environment which underpins the atmosphere of respect for all. Pupils speak positively about the friendly nature of the school and also the opportunities and curriculum enrichment activities available. As one pupil said, 'This school is fun, it's very safe here, the staff are friendly and listen to you and there's always lots to do'. Attendance is above the national average and pupils make good progress. The pupils readily recognise the importance of religious education (RE) in their lives and this makes a positive contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils know that it is important to learn about Christianity and other religions. They demonstrate good knowledge of the major events in the life of Jesus and speak with enthusiasm about their RE lessons in which they explore 'difficult questions'. A number of children commented that it would be useful to explore these issues further. In answer to the question 'What is a miracle?' one child wrote, 'A miracle is something that has happened although it did not seem possible.' There is a very positive input from the vicar and the Bishop's Visitor. The school makes good use of its environment to celebrate its Christian foundation and to nurture the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. This was seen in the quality and thoughtfulness of displays throughout the school as well as the indoor and outdoor reflection areas which the children value and use frequently. The relationships between all members of the school community are excellent and this is because they are based on the school's core values which ensure that respect and compassion are always high on the agenda. This is borne out by the school behaviour records which show that exclusions are non-existent. Parents value the accessibility of staff and speak highly of the caring and inclusive nature of the school. They value the family atmosphere and the ways in which the school encourages independence and teaches the children, 'to think for themselves about important issues'. Pupils are motivated to support and fund-raise for a wide range of charities at a local, national and global level. One child commented that this not only helped others but also was good for themselves in the teamwork and reflection this develops. However their understanding of diversity does not extend to their perception of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The importance of collective worship is evident from the documentation and the requirement for all teaching staff to attend all acts of collective worship. The whole school community places great value on collective worship. It is central to the daily life of the school and is recognised as a time for reflection, prayer and celebration. It is recognised and understood by pupils to be 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 it has with clarity and obvious enjoyment. As one pupil said, 'It's great fun and we learn a lot.' Pupils show a highly developed knowledge of the concept of Trinity with thoughtful comments on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. On the day of the inspection the worship observed was a joyous occasion and took the form of a celebration of the work of the school and the achievements of each class and a large number of individual pupils. The worship included open ended questions to the whole school. The behaviour was immaculate throughout and the pupils entered and left the hall in a well organised and calm manner reflecting the thought given to the occasion. Pupils are enthusiastic and positive about the wide variety of collective worship experiences provided by the school. They express their appreciation for the many opportunities they are given to engage in planning and delivering worship themselves. The impact of worship is high because it is very well planned and evaluated by the headteacher, senior leaders and governors. There is a strong relationship between the school and the local St John the Baptist Church. This is echoed by parents who welcome the opportunity to

participate in acts of worship both in the school and in the church. Inclusion is ensured through the selection of a very effective and broad set of themes that link with an emphasis on Christian Values and current affairs. The Church's year underpins the programme, which allows good provision for developing understanding of Anglican tradition and practice. Pupils know the Lord's Prayer. Their attitude to prayer is respectful and very positive. There are many opportunities provided for prayer and reflection on a daily basis which the children value. Very effective provision is made for committed Christian families through the strong links with the parish church.

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

The leadership of the headteacher, senior leaders and governors in developing the school's Christian ethos is outstanding. Collectively they have a highly developed vision for the school which has been shared extensively with other partners and is clearly expressed in documentation. This includes a dedicated church school development plan which sits alongside the whole school development plan. Self-evaluation is realistic and of very good quality, and this makes the school's approach to improving standards robust. Leadership of collective worship and religious education has a very high priority in the school leading to extremely good practice in both areas. What is not so clear at present is how governors plan for succession although staff development is given a high priority. The head and senior teachers, supported by a number of other committed members of staff, foundation governors and clergy model active Christian leadership in all their work and this has a positive impact on the well-being of the whole school community. They also promote appropriate ways of praying, thus cementing prayer into the fabric of the school. The quality of the partnership with the parish and diocese is very high. The school takes every opportunity it can to underpin and develop this family relationship. Parents and pupils feel that their views are sought and valued by school leaders. Team spirit in the school is high and members of staff are very positive about improvements made over the past two years. They are positive about their involvement in helping to make improvements to the school. Parents see the school's Christian ethos and its emphasis on the whole child as a key reason for choosing the school. Parents acknowledge the way that links between the school and the local parish church are helping pupils to see the church as a welcoming place that develops their understanding of Christian worship and practice. The arrangements for religious education and collective worship meet statutory requirements. The issues for development highlighted in the last inspection have been met in full.

SIAMS report October 2014 Baston Church of England Primary School, PE6 9PB

