



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

### Weston Favell Church of England Primary School

Westwood Way  
Wellingborough Road  
Northampton  
NN3 3HH

**Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding**

**Current inspection grade: Outstanding**

**Diocese: Peterborough**

Local authority: N/A

Dates of inspection: 2 February 2015

Date of last inspection: February 2010

School's unique reference number: 122010

Headteacher: Mrs Jill Ramshaw

Inspector's name and number: Janet McMurdo 529

#### School context

The school is a larger than average-size primary school which became an academy in September 2012. It is the only church school within the Northampton Primary Academy Trust Partnership. The headteacher of the school is a director of the academy trust. The school is popular and oversubscribed, with the pupils coming from mixed socio-economic backgrounds. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is larger than average but the proportion of pupils who speak English as an additional language is smaller than average.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Weston Favell as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The leadership of the school has a very good Christian vision and supports children well through its inclusive Christian environment
- Learners' attitudes and behaviour are very good because of the positive way they respond to the good Christian values and the respect shown by all members of the school for one another
- The impact of collective worship is outstanding with pupils keen to explain its impact on their lives
- Good quality teaching and learning is raising standards of achievement for all pupils as the school lives out its Christian values

#### Areas to improve

- Systematically ensure that the school as a church school is evaluated and developed by the Governing Body.

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

Weston Favell Primary School ensures an excellent learning environment, where pupils are proud to belong, feel valued and achieve highly. It is a place where God is acknowledged to be at the centre and where children are clear of the importance of this in their lives. Pupils explain that as a school community they all look after each other because they are a family. Data shows that pupils are achieving above the national average in core subjects and that pupils make good progress in this school where very positive learning experiences take place. As a result of the school's caring Christian ethos children love coming to school and therefore their attendance levels are excellent.' The Headteacher and deputy articulate a strong Christian commitment to their school, ensuring that everyone knows God's love as a key part of their learning. The behaviour system, which is linked to the school's values, allows the school to celebrate children's development in a variety of ways supporting their positive sense of worth. Relationships are exemplary and behaviour is excellent, and well supported by the whole school awareness of the Biblically based 'Caterpillar values' known as the 7 Cs. This is a highly inclusive school, where every child matters. A Family Support Worker supports children and families who are experiencing personal challenges both emotionally and practically. Parents praise the quality of the good teaching their children receive as well as the emotional care for each child. The exceptional music teaching and the rich sporting opportunities ensure a breadth to the curriculum that enriches all children. Pupils experience the Christian values of compassion and community through working within the local area and fund raising for named charities. Pupils' cultural and global awareness is enhanced through learning about other faiths and cultures, not just in religious education (RE) and worship, but also through the school's support for an African village. Children appreciate the reflection spaces which have been established in each classroom as well as outside and clearly demonstrate an understanding of the importance of prayer in their lives. Bright, prominent displays around school enhance pupils' spiritual development including a supportive display where the anti-bullying message is linked to gospel values.

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

The attitude of the pupils to collective worship is excellent because the inspirational and creative experiences offered to them in worship are making a real difference in their lives and the lives of their families. Prayerful and meaningful worship take place daily, greatly enhancing their spiritual and cultural development, with parents commenting that their children are often bringing home the learning from these special times and sharing the impact with their families. They all enjoy 'coming together as one'. The school's effective use of symbolism, using the Bible, a cross and a candle in worship ensures that children have a simple but effective way of understanding the Holy Trinity. Pupils go on to explain 'Jesus as Saviour who died on the cross for his people; the Holy Spirit guiding us even if we can't see him and God as our Father looking after us all from in heaven'. The clergy and other local Christian organisations within the community, who are all regular visitors to the school, support the pupils and staff in their understanding and values within collective worship. Children regularly participate in worship and the recent introduction of Worship Ambassadors from across the school ensures that pupils are more routinely involved in the planning and evaluation of worship. Prayer is an important part of school life, with a reflection space an integral part of each classroom as well as a designated Prayer Space within school which is very respectfully used by members of the school family. The Lord's Prayer and lunchtime grace are prayed regularly with Worship Ambassadors often writing prayers for worship and key festivals. Pupils enjoy the developing reflection garden outside which gives them freedom to quietly go and think during playtime and lunch breaks; the trust which is given to the pupils to enable them to do this is recognised as a special feature of the school. The establishing of a whole school Prayer Space on a larger scale within the school by the Parish Children's Officer is evidently valued by the children who describe the opportunity to be peaceful and reflective as a strength of this routine programme.

In all these ways, collective worship is constantly enriching the community of this school.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding**

RE has a high profile and is enthusiastically led by the RE coordinator who teaches RE across the school supported by a well-trained and effective higher level teaching assistant, so ensuring good progression for pupils. Pupils enjoy RE readily articulating that this is because it is different to all other subjects in providing time to reflect and think about others. The scheme of work for RE inspires children's love of the subject and teaches Christian Values to enhance the SMSC development of each child. The RE subject leader acknowledges that class teachers embrace RE and she aims to embrace the rest of the curriculum where possible. The RE portfolio and children's books illustrate that RE is taught in creative and interesting ways and pupils report that this contributes to their thorough understanding and high levels of achievement. Standards in RE are as high as other core subjects, with some pupils demonstrating very high levels of achievement and attaining at least Level 5 by the end of Key Stage 2. There is a systematic method of assessment in place which informs learning and ensures consistency of assessment. There is a strong emphasis on learning from the religious traditions which places appropriate emphasis on Christianity as well as other world religions. Marking is purposeful and, in line with whole school policy, is challenging with key questions for next steps learning; also in line with whole school targets, time needs to be routinely given to allow pupils to respond to the high quality marking. As a result of a sound knowledge of the Christian faith, learners have a well-developed understanding of the incarnation.

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

The Christian heritage of this school is very effectively promoted by the headteacher, deputy, clergy, governors, parents, pupils and staff so that the Church of England foundation is celebrated and secured in this richly diverse school; the whole school community benefits from this rich heritage both every day and at difficult times. The pursuit of excellence is demonstrated by a highly successful drive to always improve achievement or maintain the highest level of achievement for all pupils. Parents praise the fact that 'every child is valued, with the school looking for strengths in their individual achievement'. The headteacher and deputy's vision and Christian leadership is fundamental to the school's ethos. Portfolios for both RE and collective worship are held by dedicated and specialist teachers who have sole responsibility for these key areas in the life of this Christian school, ably exceeding the legal requirements. Christian leadership is supported through the church school structure which exists within the town for the sharing of good practice and collaboration on joint projects. The RE subject leader has all the status of other core subject leaders within the school, leading staff meetings and having regular release from teaching duties to monitor the pupils' work. Governors have addressed all areas from the last inspection and are strongly committed to the school's Christian values. Effective strategic improvement planning is enhanced by the way governors are seeking new ways to improve their monitoring and evaluation role. The school has rightly identified areas to improve the church school ethos in the School Improvement Plan further enhancing this already strong feature of the school. Pupils have a voice through the school council and say they always feel their views are heard and often acted upon. Parents feel valued, involved and included. There are excellent relationships with St Peter's Parish Church which enable children and their families to develop their faith through regular shared services. This welcoming, worshipping and witnessing community lives out its mission and vision.