

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>Wood's Foundation Church of England Primary School</b>	
Lingwood Lane, Woodborough, Nottinghamshire NG14 6DX	
<b>Current SIAMS inspection grade</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Southwell and Nottingham</b>
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Local authority	Nottinghamshire
Date of inspection	10 May 2018
Date of last inspection	May 2013
Type of school and unique reference number	Foundation Primary 122810
Headteacher	Shaun Hopwell
Inspector's name and number	Lizzie McWhirter 244

### School context

Currently there are 204 pupils on roll at Woods who are mainly from a White British background. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and /or disabilities is below the national average. The headteacher and deputy headteacher are well established members of the senior leadership team. The religious education [ RE] subject leader is currently on the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership programme.

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

- Dedicated and committed staff ensure this is a welcoming and inclusive Christian family community which serves its pupils and their families very well. It is a place where all are valued and respected. Consequently, pupils make good progress and achieve well academically. personally and spiritually.
- Exemplary relationships at all levels ensure all members of this community are enveloped with care and can grow and flourish within a spirit of hope, wisdom and belonging in this supportive Christian environment.
- Pupils' religious knowledge and understanding is excellent and nurtures their spiritual journeys very well.
- The partnership with the parish church enriches the worshipping lives and spiritual development of the community very well.

### Areas to improve

- Extend the programme of visitors to RE lessons to enrich pupils' spiritual and cultural development and deepen their learning

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

The exemplary relationships at all levels ensure that each member of this welcoming and inclusive Christian family community is, as one parent testified, 'enveloped with care'. Consequently, everyone is able to grow and flourish within a spirit of hope, wisdom and belonging. This nurturing environment enables all groups of pupils to achieve very well both academically and spiritually because community, environment and wisdom are drivers for all school life. Attendance is good and there have been no exclusions in a community where all are valued and respected. Pupils who have social, emotional or mental health needs do well because this is an inclusive school supported by talented staff. Consequently, there are very good relationships between parents, pupils and school. All this takes place within a context where Christian values, such as wisdom and hope, alongside empathy and patience embed achievement for all. Such an approach empowers pupils so they feel part of the learning process.

Worship and RE make good contributions to pupils' spiritual and personal development and to the Christian character of the school. In addition, 'Godly Play' is used well as a tool to enhance reflection and thinking. Pupils are excited and challenged by RE and enjoy the creativity of their RE lessons. Regular visits to St Swithun's Church and Southwell Minster help make a rich contribution to pupils' spiritual development.

Pupils benefit from the variety of after school clubs and the musical and sporting activities offered. Their fundraising and charity work, both locally and nationally, stems from the Christian values of generosity and service. This extends to their global awareness of Christianity as a worldwide faith, which is growing and deepening through worship and RE.

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

Inspirational and invitational collective worship is an important part of school life at Woods and enjoyed by adults and pupils alike. Worship is inclusive and welcoming. For example, coffee is provided for parents before class worship. Worship is varied in its approach and has an emphasis on key festivals in the church year, such as Christmas and Easter, as well as biblical teaching. This is because Woods enjoys a close links with nearby St Swithun's Church through the vicar as well as Southwell Minster. Special days in the Christian calendar are celebrated, such as Ascension Day. Pupils are encouraged to pray and reflect as well as lead worship, with a variety of prayers and hymns used and known by pupils. At Woods the 'What if? Worship' approach is taken to see things differently. For example, the headteacher uses a variety of ways to engage the pupils to reflect on what the Christian messages mean to them. This includes reflection at home and the classroom. Pupils reflect on how the disciples felt when Jesus commissioned them to take on the big task of bringing joy into the world and the importance of his faith and trust in them. Staff as well as pupils take part and suggest ideas, such as taking on responsibility for the environment. Pupils show confidence by being soloists in leading prayers in worship. They also think deeply. For example, one pupil prayed about the 'potential of not being crushed'. Pupils have an age appropriate understanding of the Christian belief of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and an appreciation of the special nature of Jesus. They say they enjoy 'learning about God and His ways'. They recall the events of Pentecost and the gifts given to Jesus' disciples. Pupils find bible stories, such as David and Goliath or The Good Samaritan helps them in their life. One pupil said, such stories remind them that, 'No matter who someone is, what they look like or where they come from, we should be the better person and make an effort to help them.' They go on to say they value worship in church and how that feels special to them. Class reflection areas and calm corners provide well used prayer spaces for pupils who use them creatively. Whilst pupils value the links they have with their parish church, they say they would like to know more about St Swithun to whom their church is dedicated.

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

Achievement in RE is high as in other core subjects. This is because the quality of teaching and learning in RE is very good. Staff have good subject knowledge and ask effective questions of pupils. Innovative new teaching methods are welcomed. The school is currently incorporating the 'Understanding Christianity'

resources into teachers' planning and teaching. Consequently, pupils at Woods have excellent religious knowledge and understanding. They can explain the Christian story of salvation very well and in great detail. RE at Woods is creative and innovative and engages pupils. For example, following Year 1's visit to the church, they discuss what 'redeem' and 'Eucharist' means. Even the youngest pupils engage with biblical story and ask deep questions about Jesus' teaching, such as The Pearl of Great Price. Older pupils consider what the world might be like if everyone let in The Holy Spirit to be more like Jesus or reflect on how prayer can be more meaningful. One pupil spoke of how, 'when bad things happen, good comes out of it'. Whilst Judaism and Islam are studied and visits are made to places of worship, such as the synagogue, pupils say they would like more visitors coming into their classrooms. They like meeting people of faith which supports their spiritual and cultural development very well.

Assessment which includes monitoring and evaluation is in place. Book scrutinies and lesson observations are part of an on-going cycle. These contribute to clear priorities for action, such as incorporating Sikhism as an important part of the faiths studied at Woods as well as embedding the 'What if? Learning' approach to teaching RE.

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

Dedicated and committed staff serve the pupils and their families exceedingly well. The whole community believes in the core purpose and mission of the school which is worked out through the values of hope, wisdom, community and environment. The headteacher and deputy headteacher work seamlessly together providing a daily structure and supporting any who may be anxious or worried so all feel they can achieve well. A hallmark at Woods is seeing the joy in the everyday with staff. In turn, staff confirm they enjoy working in this 'family community where everyone is valued and respected academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually'.

Links with the parish church are good, with the vicar offering lunchtime services on special feast days, which are well attended by staff. There is a weekly pupil prayer group, and prayer begins every governing body meeting, with the school featuring regularly in Parish News

Parents are an important part of the Woods family. Recent successful events have included coffee and cake at a local pub for new parents, which has helped in building a community. Parents' views on The school's Christian values and ethos are sought, with their contributions to the values warmly invited. For example, a board is placed on the playground at the start and end of day and parents invited to make their contributions and define what wisdom or hope means to them. This initiative came from the RE subject leader who is currently on the Church School Leadership programme and devised this activity in partnership with a school in a neighbouring diocese. The governors at Woods are committed to supporting the wellbeing of pupils and staff and to the training and development of all staff and governors. Woods has greatly benefitted from diocesan training and support, especially from the RE advisers. Both RE and worship meet statutory requirements and form an important part of the monitoring cycle, meet statutory requirements and both are well led, managed and resourced. The potential for continuing positive development is very good.

Parents are in no doubt about the strong sense of belonging they and their children experience here. They speak highly of the fact that every child is known by the teachers, whom they praise for all the successful achievements their children enjoy. Whilst the church features highly in village life, other events involve and include the parents, their children and the school, such as the annual scarecrow festival. At Woods there is support for all the family where the school's Christian vision shines through. Thus one parent said her child 'comes home and tells us about God's love'.

SIAMS report May 2018 Woods Foundation Church of England Primary School, Woodborough, NG14 6DX