



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Hanging Heaton Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School

High Street
Hanging Heaton
Batley
WF17 6DW

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: West Yorkshire and the Dales

Local authority: Kirklees

Dates of inspection: 4 May 2016

Date of last inspection: 23 June 2011

School's unique reference number: 107709

Headteacher: Janet Thompson

Inspector's name and number: Roger Bateman 788

School context

Hanging Heaton Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School is smaller than average, serving a village area bordering significant socio-economic and cultural diversity. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is low but rising and the majority of pupils are from white British backgrounds. The vicar has been in post 18 months and since the last inspection the governors have appointed a new headteacher and a full complement of teaching staff.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Hanging Heaton Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The knowledge and understanding by children, parents, staff and governors, of the Christian values that underpin the life and practice of the school.
- The effectiveness of acts of worship in contributing to the development of spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding for both pupils and staff.
- The feeling of koinonia, belonging and being part of a special family, experienced by all members of the school community which is evident in their discussions, interactions and relationship with each other.

Areas to improve

- Improve links with other major faith communities and leaders locally.
- Improve and develop the recently created outdoor area into a reflective area.
- Identify within appropriate policies the Christian values that influence their creation.

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

Attainment for all pupils, including those in receipt of pupil premium, is consistently high and above both local and national averages. This is as a direct result of excellent teaching, careful curriculum planning and effective monitoring of attainment for all pupils. This was recognised in the recent Ofsted inspection which stated, 'Pupils make the progress that is expected of them and many make more than expected' Ofsted (March 2016)

Attendance is higher than national average and pupils talk enthusiastically about interesting lessons and caring teachers who make learning fun and exciting. Pupils are confident and happy and as a result their attitude to their learning is excellent. 'I think our school helps us to become safer people, helps us to develop lots of our talents and shows us how to behave.' Year 3 pupil.

There is detailed planning for the curriculum, including religious education (RE) following the locally agreed syllabus. This is, where possible, linked to worship themes reinforcing the links between RE and worship. This results in enhancing and developing pupils' understanding of Christian values and how they are practically applied to daily living. Pupils' progress is carefully monitored resulting in an effective development plan which has resulted in RE making a significant contribution to the curriculum and effectiveness of this school. There are a wide range of extracurricular activities ranging from basketball and cricket to French, sewing and reflective art, all of which are enjoyed by the vast majority of pupils.

The reflective art group, open to pupils from Year 3 and above and under the skilful guidance of a parent, has recently completed a project entitled, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart'. This has resulted in the production of four large pieces of art, evidencing pupils' understanding of the Christian value of love, and will be displayed in the school hall.

Both adults and pupils articulate clearly the values that underpin the life of this school and how that is realised in practice. Pupils speak openly and confidently about the school's Christian values. They talk of truthfulness, forgiveness and friendship when talking about how they behave at school and how they resolve any playground disputes which are very rare. Their understanding of the values of respect, truthfulness and forgiveness results in excellent behaviour which is evident throughout the school. Parents praised the work of the school and the support given to all pupils. Older pupils can apply for responsibilities which increase their confidence. 'Everything that this school does is focussed on developing the child,' said one parent.

The school benefits from close links with St Paul's Church. Foundation governors are regular visitors to school both in their monitoring and assisting with readers, visits or coffee making roles. The school takes part in a number of church activities such as the Christingle service and performing for the luncheon club, reflecting the Christian value of service. The church is used by the school for major Christian festivals and celebrations which the pupils and their parents enjoy. Parents and staff commented that celebrations at church are important as it 'was a special place' and that the awe and wonder that is created in these services is very powerful. The school has links with schools in a

contrasting area of the diocese and the Gambia allowing pupils to have first-hand experience of learning about and from another world faith tradition and its practices.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is an essential part of the life of this school. Because of the thoughtful planning and delivery involving all members of the school community, especially pupils, collective worship in this school has a positive impact in the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils. Pupils frequently take part in and confidently lead worship. According to the recent pupil voice survey they particularly enjoy the 'Whoosh' worship linked to the weekly theme.

Pupils enter worship respectfully sitting where they choose, thus enhancing the Christian value of koinonia. During the worship observed it was clear that they enjoy taking part. They participate well, responding thoughtfully to questions. They display a strong spiritual awareness and an understanding of Christian values. The vicar led worship, with children fully engaged throughout, made good use of ICT to capture and retain pupils' attention. Pupils sing with enthusiasm. The quiet reverence experienced in the worship observed set the tone for pupils' behaviour throughout the day.

The school benefits from worship being led by a number of people including school staff, the vicar, and members of other local Christian denominations with whom the school has developed strong beneficial links.

Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship is regularly carried out by staff, pupils and governors, and is managed by an extremely competent worship co-ordinator. This collective responsibility has further strengthened the capacity of the school to ensure its distinctive Christian character.

The impact of collective worship is enhanced by the school's quiet reflective area where children are encouraged to think, write prayers or use the many exciting interactive resources such as the Zen garden or prayer bubbles. The emphasis on Christian values across the whole school is evident from the prominent space this has in each classroom and reflective displays such as the 'rainbow hands' which was created with a partner school. Children know the three parts of the Trinity and were confident talking about Christian symbolism, festivals, celebrations and traditions. Year 2 had recently studied Holy Communion, which involved the vicar, a regular and familiar visitor to school.

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

The school is led by a dedicated headteacher who enables staff and governors to have a firm and clear understanding of the Christian values that direct policy and practice within the school. The leadership and management are both very effective. The headteacher and governors have created an effective team who work in an environment where only the best is good enough. 'You have created a culture where only the best is good enough for the pupils' Ofsted March 2016.

There is very effective curriculum planning and lessons are interesting and stimulating. Governors are well informed about pupil progress and achievement. They know the strengths of this school and what areas need further development, a strength also

identified in the latest Ofsted review.

This school is part of the Yorkshire Anglican Teaching Schools Alliance and through the school's commitment to service to others, staff are encouraged to take part in professional development enabling them to make an effective impact on the current pupils and their own professional lives.

Parents are an important part of the school family and their voice is listened to. They speak with pride of the school's involvement at the annual church services held in St Paul's Church and how moving these are because of the pupils' reverence and respect reflecting the Christian values supported by the school.

Effective use of additional income is made in supporting vulnerable pupils with additional provision in Mathletics and Lexia and providing high quality sports activities such as basketball and tag-rugby, enhancing the opportunities for all pupils. Incidents of bullying in any form are extremely rare in this school where respect and friendship are so effectively embedded in daily practice. Evidence indicates that on the rare occasions these do happen, the incident is dealt with effectively.

SIAMS report May 2016 Hanging Heaton VC Junior & Infant School, Batley WF17 6DW