



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Mugginton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Mugginton
Weston Underwood
Ashbourne DE6 4PL

Previous SIAS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire
Date of inspection: 29th June 2016
Date of last inspection: June 2011
School's unique reference number: 112862
Headteacher: Joseph Green
Inspector's name and number: Kerry Palmer (60)

School context

Mugginton is a much smaller than average village church school, of long standing, serving an area with little social deprivation. A significant number of children travel from outside the catchment area to attend this popular school. Provision includes breakfast and after-school clubs. Almost all children are of White British heritage. The numbers with special needs or in receipt of pupil premium support are well below national averages. Excellent use is made of the Victorian building and surroundings, to provide a stimulating environment for modern education. All Saints Parish Church is next door. The current headteacher has been in post since January 2016.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Mugginton Church of England (VC) Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Passionate Christian leadership which recognises the potential of all resulting in optimum growth in individuals and the school.
- A strong sense of Christian community, which drives all school activity explicitly impacting on relationships, well-being and children's achievement.
- High quality religious education (RE) which promotes enthusiastic learning and spiritual development.
- Effective governors who share a commitment to the Christian distinctiveness of the school ensuring that Christian values guide all decision making.

Areas to improve

- Embed a liturgical framework for collective worship which ensures that children depart with a message to carry through into their lives.

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

It is very evident that an established Christian ethos is deeply embedded at Mugginton Church of

England Primary School and is lived out in every aspect of school life. Friendship and mutual respect are displayed in relationships amongst all. Staff work as a mutually supportive team with the confidence to share strengths and weaknesses. They recognise the unique worth of each individual. Professional insight and enthusiasm ensures that every child, in these mixed age classes, is appropriately challenged to 'become the best you can be' and make the most of their God given gifts and talents. This, along with a rich and diverse curriculum actively promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural growth. Older children naturally support and befriend youngsters at play and work well together in Team Time where school issues are discussed. Teams are named after the four gospels and children appreciate their significance. Behaviour is admirable. School policy is driven by a spirit of Christian forgiveness and reconciliation; children feel safe and confident. There are no exclusions. The reward system includes tokens towards favourite charities chosen by the children, currently including Macmillan and Save the Children. Resilience and determination, the current Christian value focus, promote achievement levels consistently above national expectations. The happiness and well-being of every child is a key priority, children love coming to school. Consequently, attendance levels, at over 97%, are well above national expectations. The school recognises the need to promote understanding of diversity and an awareness of our multi-faith and cultural society. It holds the International Schools Award and has active links with a contrasting inner city school, who join Mugginton annually for an activity day including the local ploughing competition. A range of curricular and extra-curricular activities ensures empathy and respect. Recently, children wrote to a Derby imam inviting him to visit. RE teaching is given high priority and standards are very good. Led by a committed and well informed subject leader, it is recognised as a core subject, making a significant contribution to the wider life of the school. A RE week, including a range of creative activities and linked to the school's 150th anniversary, earlier in the school year gave particularly high profile to the subject. A range of creative and imaginative teaching strategies and reflection on 'Big Questions' promote deep thinking and children's spiritual development.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

High quality collective worship enriches the lives of children and adults and is clearly at the heart of the school community. There is a strong focus on Bible teaching resulting in children who appreciated the special place of Jesus and have an age appropriate understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Prayer, including children's prayers are an established part of worship and the school day. Children's prayers feature on a virtual 'prayer wall' on the school website. Children know and regularly use the Lord's Prayer. Times of reflection and pondering on the implications of Bible teaching in their own lives are developing. An example was a focus on the determination of Noah, led by the children in role play, leading to reflection and sharing, when the children had to be determined. A liturgical approach, introduced following a governor observation, is becoming established. Attractive reflective areas are now a feature of classes and outside, where worship takes place in good weather. In Key Stage 1 reflection on 'love, joy, peace,' was supported by suitable music. In Key Stage 2, the reflective area currently includes the wonder of God's creation linked to science, art and children's thank-you prayers. Responses from a range of stakeholder monitoring activities, including children, staff and governors, a development issue from the last inspection, successfully contribute to continuous improvement. Examples are the introduction of lively, modern worship songs and CWC, the collective worship crew, which significantly increased children's opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate worship. It is so popular that almost all Key Stage 2 now participate. Worship themes are based on Christian values. All staff participate in worship which successfully uses Bible teaching to inform children's thoughts about their own lives. 'They come home full of it!' a parent commented. Following closure for building work, use of the All Saints Church for regular school worship, to which increasing numbers of families and friends are invited, will resume. This, along with festival services gives children a growing appreciation of Anglican practice. Support from local clergy and a variety of leaders, including several governors, enriches the children's experience of worship styles. There are also strong links with Emmanuel Church in Belper where children recently gained much from an Easter activity Day.

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

School leaders enthusiastically articulate a fervent and well developed Christian vision for the school. This is understood and valued by all stakeholders. The current headteacher is building on established church school foundations and has already introduced a number of initiatives that are growing the, already strong, Christian distinctiveness of the school. The recognition of each child and adult as unique and special in God's eyes, drives a concern to nurture all, with their well-being prioritised. There is a culture of continuous development in which staff, governors and children strive to do even better. Concern for the well-being of each child is illustrated by the recent introduction of Forest School which is particularly targeted at building confidence and self-reliance. Staff are actively encouraged to develop their full potential with opportunities to take additional responsibility, maximising leadership potential. Focussed professional development, supported by the diocese, has built confidence and expertise. Termly headteacher reports include reference to Christian distinctiveness and SIAMS expectations. Well informed and enthusiastic governors are fully involved in driving school improvement, motivated by explicit Christian values arising from the teaching and example of Jesus Christ. The involvement of some extends to leading worship with puppets and 'Open the Book'. The governors' four point mission statement includes 'A school where prayer and worship forms an integral part of our day.' Parents are very supportive of the school and express confidence in school leaders 'It's a lovely friendly atmosphere...the children settle so quickly... I chose it for the values... you can always talk to the teachers,' are some comments. Links with local churches and the village community are recognised and promoted as mutually beneficial. Development issues from the last inspection have been fully addresses, statutory requirement for collective worship and RE are fully met and the potential for further positive growth is excellent.

SIAMS report June 2016 Mugginton CE (VC) Primary School, Derbyshire, DE6 4PL