



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### **Morton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Station Road  
Morton  
Bourne  
Lincs  
PE10 0NN

**Previous SIAMS Grade: Good**

**Current Inspection Grade: Outstanding**

**Diocese: Lincoln**

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: 6 May 2016

Date of last inspection: 6 July 2011

School's unique reference number: 120531

Headteacher: George Trafford

Inspector's name and number: John Gibbs 818

#### **School context**

The school is smaller than average having 168 pupils on roll. The number of pupils in receipt of pupil premium and the percentage of ethnic minority children is below average. Almost all pupils come from White British backgrounds and live in the village or the surrounding area. The proportion of children with special educational needs and disabilities is below the national average. The school is close to St John the Baptist Church.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Morton Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding**

- The Christian ethos of this school is all encompassing. An inclusive Christian environment underpins positive teaching and learning experiences.
- Pupils' behave well and the school's Christian ethos has a major impact on their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.
- Relationships between all members of the school community are clearly linked to the Christian values of the school.

#### **Areas to improve**

- Ensure the school has a formalised strategic plan for developing staff and governors as church school leaders so that there are substantial benefits for individuals and the school.
- Ensure pupils are involved in the planning and evaluation of collective worship in order to widen the impact of the pupil voice.

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

This is an exceptionally happy and caring school where explicitly taught Christian values such as friendship, respect, peace and humility are deeply embedded and integral to every aspect of

school life. Pupils are impressive in the way they connect the values with those in the Bible and from the life of Jesus. They clearly underpin the school's behaviour policy and pupils describe the way that Christian values impact on both their achievements and their daily lives in and out of school. For example, one pupil gave an excellent illustration of how they used the school value of friendship to solve a playground dispute. They speak positively about the friendly atmosphere of the school and link their experiences to the school's Christian values in an impressive manner. As one pupil said, 'Everyone here is very friendly and we all look after each other.' Relationships between all members of the school community are exceptional. Staff and children feel highly valued by each other and parents speak extremely positively of the school's distinctively Christian ethos and its inclusivity. One parent said, 'The school and church work in partnership really well and there is a good community feel about the school.' Pupils are well supported both academically and personally within a very positive environment underpinned by effective teaching and learning experiences. Above average level of attendance and lack of exclusions are the result of positive encouragement and high behaviour expectations as evidenced by discussions with pupils and staff. The school makes effective use of its environment to celebrate its Christian foundation and to nurture the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils. Examples include the peace garden and classroom and hall displays of the school's Christian values. Visits to different places of worship and visitors from a variety of religious backgrounds help to broaden the pupils' understanding of diversity. Religious education (RE) makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC development by supporting their knowledge of Christianity and the other major world religions. Pupils demonstrate a good knowledge of the major events in the life of Jesus and speak about their enjoyment of their RE lessons. There are regular contributions from the incumbent, the bishop's visitor and other members of the church community which have a strong impact on the pupils' knowledge of Christianity. Pupils are motivated to support and fundraise for a wide range of charities at a local, national and worldwide level. One child said, 'It is important to help people who are not as fortunate as us and it makes you feel good.'

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

Inspirational Christian worship is integral to every part of the school day. It is a joyful occasion to join together in celebration. Worship themes are underpinned by the extensive use of Bible stories that deliver clear messages related to the school's values. Pupils readily describe the impact of these worship themes with perception and positivity. They are enthusiastic about and enjoy the wide variety of collective worship experiences provided by the school. They express their excitement at their involvement in helping with acts of worship through the sacristans group and welcome the idea of being even more involved with this. Pupils experience a wide range of worship styles which are led by various contributors including staff, local clergy, the bishop's visitor and other outside speakers. Pupils show a highly developed understanding of the concept of the Trinity with insightful comments on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Frequent services are held in the local church as well as the school hall to celebrate important Christian festivals and pupils are excited by these occasions. There is an exceptionally strong relationship between the school and the local churches. This is welcomed by parents who value the opportunity to participate in acts of worship both at the school and also at the parish church. Events in the church year enhance the worship programme enabling excellent provision for developing understanding of Anglican tradition and practice. Pupils' attitude to prayer is respectful and very positive. They know a variety of prayers and make regular contributions to the prayer tree in the hall as well as contributing positively and confidently in acts of worship. Reflection is an important part of their prayer time and together with opportunities throughout the school day has helped develop pupils' understanding of personal prayer as an important part of their own spiritual journey.

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

Leaders and managers share a passion and commitment to the Christian ethos and the

difference it makes to the lives of pupils. The leadership team and governors are extremely effective in the continual development of the school's Christian ethos which has continued to thrive since the previous inspection. They confidently articulate a vision for the school based on clear Christian values which is shared extensively with the whole school community and clearly expressed in documentation. Senior leaders, supported by governors and clergy, model active Christian leadership. This has a positive impact on the well-being of the whole school community. Team spirit in the school is high and members of staff are extremely positive about relationships within the school. The school's Christian vision impacts positively on the standards of behaviour and achievement in the school. Governors are supportive of an extensive programme for continuing professional development (CPD) and are helping to prepare staff as future leaders of church schools though there is no formal plan to develop governors and staff jointly in this area. There is a well developed partnership between the school, the local community and diocese. This is of mutual benefit to all groups resulting in a high awareness of local, national and global issues amongst staff and pupils. Self-evaluation is realistic and robust so that the school's approach to improving standards focuses effectively on the needs of all pupils. Religious education and collective worship meet statutory requirements and are exceptionally well led and managed leading to excellent practice in both areas. Parents see the school's Christian values as a key reason for choosing the school. They support the way that links between the school and parish church help pupils to develop their understanding of Christian worship and practice. The areas for development identified in the last inspection have been met in full.

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