



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Husbands Bosworth Church of England Primary School

School Lane  
Husbands Bosworth  
LE17 6JU

Diocese: Leicester

Local authority: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: January 30<sup>th</sup> 2014

Date of last inspection: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009

School's unique reference number: 120137

Headteacher: Ms Louisa Morris

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Sheila Grice (No 165)

#### School context

Husbands Bosworth is a much smaller than average school, located in a small and socio-economically diverse village, and virtually all the children are from white British backgrounds. There are currently 79 children on roll and 15% of these are in receipt of free school meals. The proportion of children identified with a disability or special educational needs is below average. Attendance at the school is good. The school accommodates children in two buildings which are separated by residential properties. The headteacher has been in post since January 2013.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Husbands Bosworth as a Church of England school are good

- This is a very effective church school, with a strong Christian ethos, where children achieve well and thrive.
- Children's behaviour is very good and the school's Christian character has a significant impact on their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- There are very effective links with parents, churches and the local community.
- Relationships across the school are very good.

#### Areas to improve

- Continue to develop more opportunities for children to lead and plan collective worship and so express their faith directly.
- Embed the newly agreed distinctly Christian values into the daily life of the school.
- Further develop the role of Foundation governors to support the school in its self-evaluation and its drive to move the school forward.

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

This is an inclusive school, where staff and children are valued, cared for and nurtured to reach their full potential. The school successfully upholds their ambition 'to provide a high quality Christian education for the children and to serve the local community'. Attainment on entry is broadly in line with expectations and by the time children leave school their attainment is above average. Children's behaviour is very good and they are developing into well rounded, respectful citizens. Staff and children have recently identified eight distinctively Christian values, including compassion, trust and thankfulness, which impact on all decision making (e.g. pay policy) and strengthen relationships within the whole school community. The school now needs time for children to really understand how these values can affect their lives. Pupil's understanding of cultural and multi-faith differences is well developed. Links with schools in India and Italy and support through Lutterworth Area Schools Association for a school in Ghana, have enabled the children to really understand differences and appreciate others. Children value these links which help them to, 'accept other people, show respect and be thankful because we have so much, whilst some people in places like Ghana have so little.' At the time of the inspection the children were taking part in a themed week called 'A child like me'. Children were engaged and enthusiastic as they learned more about children in Europe, Africa, Mexico and China. Relationships between the children, who were grouped together in mixed ages for these activities, were excellent. Parents speak positively of the Christian character of the school where children are taught 'care and forgiveness and each one is valued.'

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

Good quality collective worship is clearly at the heart of this school community, permeating all aspects of school life. Diocesan themes are used to plan worship and full account is taken of the Christian calendar. The attitude of children towards collective worship is very positive because they are engaged in worship and it supports their spiritual development. Children appreciate the time of reflection during assemblies which provides, 'A moment of silence in the busy day to think.' The altar table also provides a focus for spiritual thought and includes liturgical colours. The sharing of the peace each week helps pupils 'forget about the bad things that have happened and start again.' Children particularly enjoy the fortnightly 'Open the Book' assemblies led by members of the local churches. Parents also value these assemblies which motivate their children to read the stories, enacted at school, in the Bible once they get home. In order to help children understand more about prayer, an activity called 'Prayer Space' was planned and on the day of the inspection children spent time at different prayer stations in the Methodist Church. There was a very welcoming peaceful atmosphere, noticed by staff and children, and after going into the area with a bubble lamp, one child came out saying, 'Awesome – that was really good; it really helped me to think about God'. Following an evaluation of collective worship, older children were identified as not having enough involvement and subsequently, children now read prayers in assemblies. The church services held regularly at All Saints have been transformed so that children now lead the services. Parents value these special services which are extremely well supported and described by one parent as, 'Amazing, uplifting and inclusive and full of joy.' Each half term there is an open collective worship time which provides the opportunity to reflect on previous assemblies and think about how to improve worship. Consequently worship is seen to be enhanced and it is continually improving.

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

There is a clear Christian vision and commitment to the school's church status by the headteacher, with strong support from the staff team and governors. Parents value the 'presence' of the headteacher who models Christian values and ensures a 'nurturing, inclusive, caring atmosphere, where staff really know our children and make them feel special.' Parent views are sought through questionnaires and informal contact and the majority value the religious character of the school, with one commenting, 'The school has an amazing feel'.

Parents particularly value the fact that staff are always welcoming and approachable and support children even at out of hour's activities. The school benefits from the involvement of the newly appointed priest in charge (also a Foundation Governor) who is building effective relationships with members of the school community. The Methodist family worker also works closely with the school to provide enrichment activities like Prayer Space. Community links with the village are strong and the school works collaboratively with village fundraisers, for example by raising money for a village defibrillator. Staff are involved with the evaluation process which gives them a clear understanding of the school's Christian character and enables them to identify areas for further development. Most issues identified for improvement at the previous inspection have been addressed; however the role of Foundation Governors in monitoring the school as a church school continues to be an area for development.

SIAMS report January 2014

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