



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Travis St Lawrence CE Primary School

Cuckoo Lane  
Hatfield  
Doncaster  
DN7 6QE

**Previous SIAMS grade:** n/a

**Diocese:** Sheffield

Local authority: Doncaster

Dates of inspection: 10 March 2016

Date of last inspection: n/a

School's unique reference number: 106766

Headteacher: Jayne McAllister (Acting)

Inspector's name and number: John Horwood 177

### School context

The school is a larger than average-size primary school with 371 pupils. The school was formed by the joining together of the former Hatfield Manor Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School and Hatfield Travis Church of England Infant and Nursery School and opened in September 2011. It operates on two sites a short distance apart. The church of St Lawrence is close to the lower school. There have been a significant number of staff changes including changes of responsibilities following the headteacher leaving the school at the end of 2015. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds.

### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Travis St Lawrence CE Primary School are outstanding

- Leaders and managers, including governors, provide outstanding leadership of this church school by living out and promoting their vision which is rooted in distinctive Christian values. They have ensured that excellent relationships support the safe and welcoming school ethos.
- Christian values are the foundation of school life and are intrinsic in the religious education (RE) curriculum and have a significant impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Collective worship has a significant and memorable impact on pupils who benefit from additional opportunities for further prayer and reflection in 'special places' in each classroom.

### Areas to improve

- Embed the recently developed RE assessment system across the school and ensure that RE helps pupils develop a greater understanding of different Christian traditions in Britain.

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

The acting headteacher has a strong and sincere faith and is continuing the promotion of distinctive Christian values that has existed for many years. She leads by example in ensuring that the care and well-being of pupils is of the highest standard and has quickly gained the respect and support of the staff. She, together with staff, governors and church leaders has a clear and united vision for the school to be a leading church school. The Christian values of love and care permeate the whole school and are reflected in the excellent relationships across the school. This has resulted in a calm and harmonious atmosphere where all pupils can share their views, including about religion, knowing their views will be respected. Pupils say that being in a church school and learning about Christianity and Christian values helps them learn and achieve well because everyone supports each other. The care provided for every child is demonstrated by the nurture facilities provided by the school. Pupils' spiritual development is supported by the priority given to opportunities for prayer and reflection around the school and by the religious education (RE) curriculum. All aspects of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are excellent. Pupils learn and understand about Christianity and especially about Anglican traditions. The Area Dean and the foundation governors are providing excellent support for pupils' understanding through the activities at St Lawrence's Church. The curriculum within the school supports pupils' awareness of diversity and prepares them for their future life. Pupils' understanding of Christianity as a world-wide faith is effectively promoted within the school but pupils' understanding of the differences and similarities between other denominations within Christianity in this country is not fully developed. They agree with the inspection findings that Christian values permeate school life and that both RE and collective worship help their children achieve well. Christian fellowship is demonstrated by the school being very supportive of pupils from Traveller backgrounds and their families. Attendance is now above average with only a very few exclusions which are used appropriately.

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

Collective worship is important to everyone in the school. All pupils and staff attend and participate fully. Older pupils help with preparing for and supporting worship and pupils often read prayers including ones they have written. Worship is very well-planned to give pupils a wide range of experiences and to ensure they are actively involved, encouraged to reflect and allowed to express their views. Worship is always linked to the Christian values which are so explicit in the school. Class worship is excellent at giving all pupils the opportunity to lead worship. The skills of organising are 'balanced' by pairing a class from the upper school with a class from the lower school who then work together. This has an excellent impact on their personal development. Parents agree that this is a feature they like. Collective worship regularly linked to stories in the Bible and helps pupils relate the Bible to every-day life situations. There are frequent references to God and to Jesus. Aspects of the Trinity are introduced within collective worship to support what they learn in RE. Pupils' growing understanding of the Trinity was confirmed during discussion with the Area Dean and the foundation governors. The impact of collective worship is shown by older pupils' confidence in discussing their experience about previous collective worships. They explained what made them memorable and how they often link to learning in RE. Pupils attend services in the church for Christian festivals and special school events. This supports pupils' understanding of Anglican traditions and broadens the range of experiences they have of collective worship. Every classroom has a space for reflection and prayer and a recent addition is the chapel in the upper school for adults to use. The collective worship coordinator and the foundation governors monitor the impact of collective worship well and this has led to greater participation by staff and pupils.

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

Pupils' work and school records show that all pupils make good progress from their individual starting points in RE. At the end of Key Stage 2, the achievement of pupils in RE is at least as good as in other subjects. This is because learners, who are motivated and enjoy lessons, are all given the support they need. The coordinator assesses pupils' progress using a new RE tracking tool and so has secure evidence of attainment and progress from pupils' starting points. However, the system is not yet fully embedded to confirm consistent use in order to normalise information across the school. The provision is well-planned and pupils enjoy the range of experiences including 'Godly Play', role play and discussions. Pupils talk confidently about religious concepts and to ask questions and 'debate' issues with their teachers. The Area Dean identified that they asked some very challenging questions during a discussion in the church and their depth of understanding was much greater than typical for pupils of that age. Teaching of RE is good. The journey of teaching to outstanding has been slowed by the staff changes in recent years. Leadership of the subject is strong and the well-trained coordinator provides good support for staff teaching the subject. The coordinator ensures that the teaching of Christianity is effective whilst also developing pupils' understanding of other faiths and cultures. However, at present pupils are not given enough guidance about the various Christian denominations in Britain. RE is seen as an important subject in the school and the time allocated meets requirements. The school bases the RE curriculum on the Doncaster Agreed Syllabus which provides for pupils of all abilities. Pupils all have at least one RE lesson each week and the good balance of learning activities makes a significant contribution to Christian values and to pupils' outstanding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

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

The acting headteacher and the foundation governors are passionate about the part that Christianity plays in supporting every pupil both academically and with their life skills. They recognised the success of the previous headteacher in combining the two schools whilst maintain the Christian character of both schools. This has led to significant improvement since the last Ofsted inspection in 2014. Parents recognise the successful amalgamation and although they were initially concerned about the long term headteacher leaving they recognise that the acting headteacher is ensuring the ongoing strong provision. Governors have planned a thorough process, including acting leadership from both within the school and through links with other church schools, for finding a new substantive headteacher. Alongside this process governors are making excellent use of existing skills within the school whilst enabling these staff to gain leadership skills in preparation for later leadership of a church school. Leaders have developed excellent links between the school and the church community for their mutual benefit. The Area Dean recognises this work and is developing opportunities to improve these links even more. The priority given to being a church school is recognised by the governing body having a committee to monitor spiritual development and the school's effectiveness in its Christian ethos and mission. Foundation governors also visit the school regularly to help update the school's self-evaluation as a church school. The issues from the previous inspection have been addressed. The self-evaluation of the school as a church school is accurate and is fully supported by the inspection evidence. The training available through the diocese is helping staff become more skilled in their areas of responsibility. Both RE and collective worship meet the statutory requirements.