



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Totley All Saints Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

Hillfoot Road  
Totley  
Sheffield  
S17 4AP

**Previous SIAMS grade:** Good

**Current inspection grade:** Outstanding

**Diocese:** Sheffield

Local authority: Sheffield

Dates of inspection: 25th February 2016

Date of last inspection: 22nd June 2011

School's unique reference number: 107156

Headteacher: Karole Sargent

Inspector's name and number: Louise Patterson (310)

#### School context

Totley All Saints school serves the area of Totley along with Totley Primary School. Both schools are judged to be outstanding by OFSTED. Since the previous denominational inspection a new head teacher has been appointed who has been in post for four years. The school is a smaller than average sized primary school housed in buildings which have been extended as the need arose from the original village school. The school utilises every area effectively. The church is relatively close to the school. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage with below average in receipt of free school meals.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Totley All Saints as a Church of England school are outstanding.

- An outstanding Christian ethos rooted securely in Biblical teachings, managed by outstanding leadership.
- The very high quality relationships within the school based on an atmosphere of love and trust.
- Collective worship forms a cornerstone of the Christian life of the school.

#### Areas to improve

- Involve pupils more in the planning and delivery of worship.
- Provide time for the subject co-ordinator to further monitor the short term plans for RE.

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

The school's ethos, quality of relationships and treatment of every child as a child of God make it very clear that the life and work of the school is firmly rooted in Christian values and Biblical teaching. Christian values are being talked about and lived out on a daily basis, which is having a very positive impact on the school community as a whole. They are exemplified in such areas as the exceptionally high quality of care and respect for each other, the very good behaviour of pupils and high quality classroom practice. Pupils are able to articulate what it means for them to go to a church school, saying such things as 'our logo has palm leaves and a rainbow to show Gods promise', 'we can pray anywhere' and 'we have respect for God'. Data confirms that pupil attainment is above national averages, which is a reflection of the focussed support for children of all abilities and the dedicated teachers' commitment to the school as a Christian community. A range of rewards and sanctions are used very effectively within the school with achievements celebrated in a variety of ways which both pupils and parents greatly appreciate. Pupils say that they really enjoy coming to school and that they feel very safe and very well cared for, as a result attendance is above average. The Christian distinctiveness of the school is having a positive impact on the spiritual development of pupils. Aspects of spiritual development have been identified in all curriculum areas. Pupils and staff work hard to contribute significantly to a wide range of charities which pupils have identified. Periods of reflection, stillness and prayer are encouraged with each classroom having an appropriate area for prayer. Prayer is a strong feature of the school with prayers said regularly throughout the day alongside appropriate liturgical responses. A very mutually supportive and hardworking staff team is in evidence with some significant changes since the previous denominational inspection. Adults within the school are providing excellent role models of hard work, care and love of the individual child resulting in pupils who are very well behaved and have a very positive attitude towards the school as a Christian community and an awareness of diversity. There are very mutually supportive links with the local parish with succession planning in place when the current incumbent leaves. Members of the church are regular contributors to the Christian life of the school alongside other visitors from a range of denominations. Parents speak highly of the school as a church school saying such things as 'Jesus is at the heart of the school' and 'there is a real focus on the person as a whole'. They say that they are kept very well informed about their child and school events. The school clearly knows itself very well and is regularly reflective upon its' Christian distinctiveness.

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

Worship plays a central part in the life of the school as a Christian community and is having a very positive impact on the lives of both staff and pupils. It provides regular opportunities for the development of the spiritual dimension through prayers and periods of quiet reflection. These are taken up with enthusiasm. There is a clear understanding that the teachings of Jesus can be lived out through caring relationships, good behaviour and mutual respect. Pupils and staff are actively engaged in the worship being delivered and clearly enjoy the experience. There is very good use made of appropriate liturgy to which the children respond well. Pupils are gaining an appropriate grounding in the Anglican tradition. Pupils enjoy and take pride in the opportunities to lead aspects of worship. However, they are not sufficiently involved in the planning and delivery of worship on a regular and frequent basis. Pupils said that they would welcome and enjoy this opportunity. There is an understanding of difficult Christian concepts. Pupils can articulate with confidence the Trinity with an apple analogy and incarnation as 'God poured Himself into a human body'. Christian worship is well planned by the head teacher, who has an academic background in theology. There is an appropriate balance within worship, with times for song, Biblical stories and rewarding of achievement. Major Christian festivals are celebrated in church along with other regular visits. Visitors deliver worship on a regular basis which pupils say they enjoy. Pupils are asked about worship and the impact it has on them and their lives. Parents commented that pupils are 'taught to be really reflective' and 'children are

free to explore faith with no pressure'.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding.**

Pupils are making progress at least in line with other foundation subjects and are attaining to a similar level. Pupils are being actively encouraged to be independent learners, especially lower down the school. When questioned, pupils throughout school have an extensive and thorough understanding of Christian concepts with a depth which indicates they have experienced outstanding teaching and learning over time. Pupils engage appropriately with the major world faiths alongside the significant Christian input. All who deliver the subject are highly committed to the subject and are highly skilled in delivery. There is a real sense that the subject is making a significant contribution to the school as a religious community. The school has developed a scheme which takes the best of a range of resources and has grown into an extremely cohesive unit. This development has given the staff confidence in delivery and the coverage of the skills, knowledge and understanding they wish to be integral to the RE delivered in the school. Appropriate progression is evident. There is evidence of formal monitoring of teaching and learning taking place with classroom observations and book sampling alongside other curriculum areas. This leads on to improvement of the subject. The recently appointed co-ordinator also monitors long and medium term plans. Short term plans are yet to be formally monitored. Pupils say that they enjoy the subject and that they 'look forward to it' and the teachers 'make hard stuff easy to understand'. The subject is being very well led and managed by the co-ordinator with appropriate guidance and help from the head teacher. Appropriate training and the support of the diocese are clearly having a positive impact. The subject is very well placed to move from strength to strength.

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

The extremely enthusiastic and committed Christian leadership and management provided by the headteacher and governors contribute significantly to the success of this outstanding church school and in the high standards of achievement and overall well-being of pupils. The Christian vision of the school is very effectively promoted and evidenced in the quality of the relationships, public documents, website and school badge. The website makes it very clear how the Christian distinctiveness of the school is central and what that means for pupils and parents. There is an outstanding team spirit with the whole staff being actively committed to the church school ethos and in the process being developed as potential leaders. Adults within the school are excellent role models and provide inspiration for the high expectations of behaviour, care and respect for the individual, which are all significant characteristics of Totley All Saints. School has managed the significant changes in staffing very well, engaging staff who are actively committed to the Christian foundation of the school. There are strong, mutually supportive links with the local parish. Succession planning is in place for when the current incumbent, who is highly supportive of the school, leaves later this year. The local church provides support for the school both practically and spiritually. There are strong and productive links with the diocese which are greatly appreciated by the school leadership. Relationships with parents are excellent; as a parent commented 'there is a genuinely open door policy' and 'everyone is very approachable'. They greatly appreciate the open door policy of the school and the visual presence of the head teacher. Pupils say that they have an effective voice within the school with both individuals and the school council being heard. The self-evaluation carried out by the school is accurate and the areas they have highlighted are entirely appropriate. The school meets the statutory requirements in both RE and collective worship. The schools strong leadership, supported by the local church, governors and the diocese, is very well placed to continue to move the school forward within its Christian foundation. This alongside a staff who are committed to creating the very best learning outcomes for pupils, will enable the school to continue its journey now it is an outstanding church school.