



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Lindale Church of England VC Primary School

Lindale
Grange over Sands
Cumbria
LA11 6LE



Diocese of Carlisle
Growing Disciples

Previous SIAMS grade:	Good
Current inspection grade:	Outstanding
Diocese:	Carlisle
Local authority:	Cumbria
Dates of inspection:	25 November 2015
Date of last inspection:	18 January 2011
School's unique reference number:	112286
Headteacher:	Sarah Coleman
Inspector's name and number:	Jo Williams

School context

Lindale Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a small rural school which serves the village and surrounding area. There are 50 pupils on the school roll. The headteacher took up her post in September 2012. There have been additional changes in staff since the last inspection. The school has an average number of pupils with special needs and a low proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals. The school works closely with the adjacent independent nursery and benefits from effective partnerships with other local church schools as part of a cluster.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Lindale CE VC School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The clear vision of the school leadership has impacted on the strategic development of the school as a church school.
- Christian values permeate the daily life of the school and these have a positive effect on relationships across the school community.
- The school demonstrates its strong Christian character in the way it supports all pupils' needs regardless of their ability or background.
- Times for prayer and reflection across the school day support pupils' spiritual journey and spontaneous prayer by pupils is a regular feature of worship.

Areas to improve

- Provide pupils with more regular opportunities to plan and deliver worship to develop their understanding of Christian beliefs.
- Ensure that the school's documentation reflects the distinctively Christian character of the school enabling the wider community to have a greater understanding of the school's foundation as a church school.

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

The school is very proactive in its inclusive and nurturing approach ensuring that as a church school they 'value all God's children'. The recently revised vision of 'inspiring our children' is underpinned by Christian values. Perseverance is the value the children were most keen to include. This value is lived out by pupils when facing academic challenges ensuring high levels of progress across the school. Distinctively Christian values are evident and impact on the day to day life of the school. Pupils provide perceptive explanations of the Christian values and give Biblical examples of these values in action, which in turn are expressed in pupil behaviour. Staff reinforce the Christian values for example using the analogy that 'Jesus' hands were kind hands' when dealing with fall outs at playtime. The distinctively Christian character of the school permeates all aspects of school life and there is a keen focus in facilitating pupils' individual spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Parents and pupils particularly enjoy the school week ending with a celebration worship where one pupil is praised by other children as to why they have been chosen as a VIP for the week. Pupils exhibit a genuine care for others. Older pupils look forward for their turn to help younger children at the on site nursery. The school is proactive in engaging in charitable activities through regular fundraising and social action. Pupils are encouraged to look outwardly and funded a goat for a village in Africa. Pupils have a broad view of religion through educational visits and visitors to the school. There is a meaningful partnership with an inner city school in Manchester which consolidates pupils' understanding of diversity. Religious Education supports the Christian character of the school through effective links. When studying a unit on different names for Jesus, pupils linked the titles with distinctive Christian values, for example for one child wrote 'Jesus Lamb of God resembled peace and Jesus the good shepherd resembled perseverance.'

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship is important to the whole school community. Adults share in the worship with the pupils and parents and governors feel welcomed. A governor described collective worship as a 'lovely start to the day, sitting peacefully' enabling the pupils to take something spiritual with them into lessons. Pupils engage fully in worship and volunteer to say, with confidence, their own spontaneous prayer. One pupil expressed how important the Lord's Prayer had become to them having had first heard it during a school worship. Weekly visitors to worship provide variety and interest whilst working within the planned theme. Pupils use their own prayers at different times of the day, such as grace before lunch. Some of these have been made into books. Pupils demonstrate a growing understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The headteacher's uses a half termly overview of distinctively Christian weekly themes for worship. These planned themes impact on pupils' spiritual experience of worship. Clergy and staff plan and evaluate worship. Its impact on pupils' spiritual development is monitored by the worship coordinator through pupil questionnaires. Clergy enrich pupils' understanding of Anglican traditions by planning and delivering worship that reflects the church calendar. Pupils and parents are fond of Egbert, the knitted mini priest, who assists the clergy in this. The use of Bible stories in worship enable pupils to reflect on their own experiences of living out Christian values, for example the use of the story of Zacchaeus during anti-bullying week. Class worships enable pupils to share their ideas but the school recognises the need to increase pupil involvement in planning and leading worship.

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

Parents, staff and children understand the school's Christian vision. Senior staff and governors are bold in promoting the Christian character of the school. This is evident in the ownership that all stakeholders have in the recently developed vision. The Christian vision impacts on both pupil progress and wellbeing. The revised behaviour policy references a verse from Luke's gospel and states that each pupil is expected to 'treat other people as you would like to be treated.' This reinforces the school's high expectations for pupil behaviour. Leaders' self-evaluation of the school's performance is perceptive. Strategic planning supports effective school improvement including plans to develop the Christian distinctiveness of the school. This feeds into the subject leaders' focused action plan for worship and religious education. Foundation governors meet regularly and there is a pastoral and community governor sub-committee. The leadership is upskilling the school staff for different roles within a church school. This includes providing focused training for staff and governors some of which is provided by the diocese. Experienced staff are encouraged to utilise their expertise through additional responsibilities both in school and externally. The headteacher has forged excellent links with the wider community. The church link governor works closely with the school and the pupils enjoy the weekly Christian clubs that are run in the school. Likewise pupils were excited by the Easter activities, provided by the church during school time, which enabled them to experience the Easter story in a creative way. The school benefits from established partnerships with other church schools for example 'Priory Day' is a highlight in the school's calendar and parents and pupils spoke highly of the event. Governors were united in voicing that the headteacher puts 'the church school ethos at the heart of the school.'

SIAMS report November 2015 Lindale CE VC Primary School, Lindale, Grange over Sands LA11 6LE