



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Trinity Church of England and Methodist Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Kiln Lane  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 8PN

**Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding**

**Current inspection grade: Outstanding**

**Diocese: Liverpool**

Local authority: Lancashire

Dates of inspection: 15 June 2016

Date of last inspection: July 2011

School's unique reference number: 119406

Headteacher: Richard Kershaw

Inspector's name and number: Jean Forward (625)

#### School context

Trinity is a larger than average-sized primary school with nursery provision. The majority of children are of White British heritage. The proportion of children with special educational needs is slightly above the national average. The number of children known to be eligible for the pupil premium is above the national average.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Trinity Primary School as a Church of England/Methodist school are outstanding

- The extremely strong Christian leadership of the headteacher and his vision for the development of the school ensure that the Christian ethos is at the heart of daily life.
- The school is extremely successful in creating a loving, caring and inclusive Christian environment which has a positive influence on children's well-being and successful learning.
- Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development is outstanding as a result of the school's Christian ethos and commitment to every child as a child of God.
- The commitment of the governing body provides highly effective support and challenge for the work of the senior leadership team. Governors make a positive contribution to the self-evaluation and development of the school's distinctive Christian ethos.

#### Areas to improve

- Involve pupils in planning and leading worship in order to deepen their spiritual awareness and their understanding of the key elements of the school's liturgy.
- Explore the introduction of Holy Communion into the cycle of worship in order to nurture children's relationship with God through this central act at the heart of Christian life.

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

A strong commitment to its Christian ethos and the development of the whole child inspire the school's work. All members of the community know they are valued and the ethos of trust and respect is clearly evident. Children talk confidently about the importance of the school's core Christian values of love, respect and forgiveness. One child said, 'Christian values make the world a better place.' They understand that Jesus shows them how to live through these values and the positive relationships across the community are rooted in a Christ-centred approach. Children's SMSC development is excellent as a result of the focused Christian ethos and the emphasis on nurturing and meeting the needs of every individual. Consequently, children demonstrate high levels of self-esteem and awareness of others. They feel safe and their behaviour is excellent. Children are extremely courteous, friendly and responsible. They enjoy being members of the ethos group and being buddies for younger children. They see this involvement as a way of contributing to the Christ-centred life of the school community. Children are able to share concerns with their teachers knowing that these will be addressed in a sensitive and caring way. One child said, 'Our teachers really know us'. Parents affirm that their children are happy and enthusiastic about learning and school life. They say that staff are dedicated and always approachable. They also say that the school and churches work closely together for the children and their families, providing opportunities for worship and a range of community activities. The school has a strong commitment to Christian stewardship, supporting a range of charities including Samaritan's Purse and MacMillan Cancer Care. Children speak of the importance of showing generosity and compassion for those in need and they are encouraged to organise charity events. Displays and Christian symbols emphasise the school's distinctiveness and support the children's spiritual development extremely well. Reflection walls are a feature of every classroom and children value the opportunity to write prayers for the prayer trees and boxes as they know that these will be offered to God. The school provides highly effective teaching about faiths other than Christianity through religious education (RE). This contributes well to children's cultural knowledge and positive attitudes towards the diverse nature of society. Children say that RE is always exciting. Attainment and progress at Level 4 and above in reading, writing and mathematics by the end of Key Stage 2 were above the national average in 2015. The school's Christian ethos shapes children's positive attitudes and behaviour in order to give them the very best start in life.

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

The act of collective worship is central to the life of the school. Planning incorporates themes based on the school's core Christian values, the Bible and major Christian festivals. As a result, children are constantly reminded of the ways in which they can lead a life rooted in Jesus. The school places Christ at the centre of all it does and collective worship enables children of all ages to understand how the teaching of Jesus guides Christians. One child said, 'We light the candle to welcome Jesus into our worship'. The children enjoy worship and engage well with questions which explore values and beliefs. Children enjoy times of silence and reflection which are an important part of the school's approach to prayer. They value the classroom reflection walls and say these help them to think and pray. One child said, 'We can talk to God and follow Jesus's ways'. Children become familiar with Anglican practice through the use of traditional prayers, responses and a clear liturgical framework for worship. As a result, they understand that worship plays a key part in the life of faith which the school and the church foster. Children do not yet experience Holy Communion as part of the worship cycle. The vicar of St. Paul's church and the Methodist superintendent minister have an important role in the worship of the school. They are involved in the planning process and lead worship which explores Christian values and the church's calendar. The school worships in the parish church and Methodist church for major festivals including harvest, Christingle and Education Sunday. This enables children and their families to feel part of the wider worshipping community. The children are involved in these special acts of worship through prayers, reading and drama. Children have a good understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and are quick to point out the triangle on their school badge which represents the three aspects of God. The school has systems in place to monitor and evaluate worship. This results in positive developments which

extend children's experience of the variety of worship. Children are involved in worship but do not yet have opportunities to plan and lead worship in an independent way.

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

The school's mission statement 'Letting your light shine as we live, love and work together with Jesus' inspires everything the school does. The headteacher and senior leadership team have a clear and strong vision for the school based on Christian principles and values. They take every opportunity to promote the school's distinctive Christian character and speak of Jesus guiding the school community and enabling everyone to do their very best. Staff and governors are committed to fostering all aspects of children's development and well-being through Christian care and love. In doing so, they recognise the importance of the school's Christian character in creating an ethos which supports effective learning and the promotion of equal opportunities. The clergy meet with the staff each half-term to discuss how the focus Christian value can be incorporated into all aspects of the curriculum. This reinforces the importance of the values in daily life and makes a strong link with the congregations of St. Paul's church and Trinity Methodist church where the learning outcomes are displayed. The headteacher rightly attributes children's successful learning and personal development to the Christ-centred qualities of the school which permeate all aspects of school life. The school knows its children and their families extremely well and meets individual needs through a culture of Christian nurturing and support. Parents recognise the distinctive Christian qualities of the school and speak highly of the respect with which they and their children are treated. Foundation governors are knowledgeable and experienced. They have a clear understanding of their role. As a result, they support the school in a variety of ways and provide a high level of challenge. Action plans for RE and worship are presented to and discussed by the governing body. This ensures that aspects of church school distinctiveness continue to contribute to the development of the school's Christian foundation. The experienced RE co-ordinator ensures that the subject is taught to a high standard and there are clear processes in place to monitor and evaluate the school's provision. The school is outward looking and works with other schools in matters of teaching, learning and school improvement. These initiatives strengthen the school's resolve to provide the very best education for its children and opportunities for all staff to develop their expertise. A strong partnership with the diocese through discussion and training has resulted in highly effective development of all aspects of church school distinctiveness.

SIAMS report June 2016 Trinity C of E and Methodist Primary School, Skelmersdale WN8 8PN