



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Station Road
Stanley
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 6FB

Previous SIAS grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: 21st April 2016

Date of last inspection: July 2011

School's unique reference number: 112854

Headteacher: Elizabeth Stanley-Wainwright

Inspector's name and number: Alastair Wood 575

School context

St Andrew's is a small village school of 106 pupils divided into 4 mixed age classrooms. Almost all the pupils are white British and a small number of pupils have special needs. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is well below the national average. The school is situated close to St Andrew's Church and the headteacher has been in post since January 2009.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Andrew's as a Church of England school are outstanding

- A distinctive church school which puts its pupils at the heart of everything it achieves
- The strength of the school's Christian values impact on every aspect of its work and exemplify its unique character as a Church of England school
- The clergy from St Andrew's church are integral to the school's distinctiveness

Areas to improve

- Formalise the current practice of spiritual development into a policy

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

'An intelligent heart acquires knowledge and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.' St Andrew's motto from the book of Proverbs provides clear insight into the school's ethos and aims. The distinctively Christian values are embedded into all aspects of the school's life and as a result they impact significantly on pupils' learning. They are known, practised and articulated

by everyone. This is a school that values each individual and celebrates pupils' uniqueness as children of God; pupils are encouraged to develop their skills in an atmosphere of mutual support and Christian love. They make very good progress from their different starting points. The school's values underpin the outstanding relationships throughout the school and characterise its work. The pupils' behaviour is outstanding through the staffs' high expectations and modeling. A frequent question during discussions with pupils is: 'What would Jesus say?' The older pupils help and look after the younger ones in a safe, secure and warm family environment, as a result all develop confidence and thrive. Parents, who have recently moved their child to the school for a fresh start, describe the impact of the school's Christian values as having given them their daughter back. The school promotes and openly encourages discussion and dialogue resulting in an ethos of calmness and mutual support. Pupils are confident their teachers believe in their abilities and skilful teaching by the staff enables pupils to make mistakes without criticism. As a result, learning is very strong. Pupils enjoy Religious Education (RE) which is led and taught in a varied, creative way as a subject in its own right and also one which threads throughout the curriculum linking subjects and impacting on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils know right from wrong and are encouraged to share their thoughts and have discussions on issues which affect their daily lives. A quiet room is used where pupils may sit in peace and reflect. Similarly, there is a prayer chair which is situated outside in a quiet nature area, helping pupils to develop their own individual spirituality through thought and wonder. Other times for reflection are provided throughout the school day and are integral to daily life. The school gives many opportunities to develop pupils' spirituality in a variety of ways, although it does not have a formal policy. There are Christian symbols throughout the school and visitors are quickly aware that this is a Church of England school of character. Colourful and stimulating displays encourage learning and interaction and each classroom proudly proclaims the school's Christian values through its signage. The school council and newly formed RE ambassadors' groups meet regularly and are keen to make suggestions for improvement to their school. For example, a new shed was bought to store the lunchtime play equipment as a result of the council's request. Pupils have a strong voice at St Andrew's and know their voice is heard. The clergy make an important contribution to the school's distinctiveness and enhance its work through regular visits, prayerful support and strong parish and community links. The pupils have a good understanding of the Anglican tradition through regular visits to St Andrew's church and are able to articulate diversity and Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith in a positive and respectful way. The areas for development from the previous inspection have all been addressed.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is central to St Andrew's daily life, it is appreciated by staff and pupils alike and is described as an important part of the day, a time of coming together and sharing. A classroom is adapted and a special atmosphere is created as pupils enter, listening to music and joining the song. Pupils play an important role in the preparation and delivery of the worship. A special three-part candle is lit to represent the Holy Trinity and an altar with a cross provides a central focus. Prayers and responses are used to open worship and a Bible story is read to stimulate thoughts and feelings in developing the theme. Worship is planned imaginatively, involving, captivating and engaging all the pupils from the youngest to the oldest. A pause for reflection enables individuals to consider issues that may not have been thought of before and supports individuals on their personal spiritual journeys. The school uses St Andrew's church as a teaching resource as well as a special place of worship and pupils have a good understanding of the Anglican tradition and artefacts. The staff room has a stained glass window of Jesus carrying a sheep and pupils were able to explain the parable of the lost sheep and also the story's significance, demonstrating their knowledge of Bible stories and the importance of Jesus. The school further enhances collective worship through a variety of visitors making worship accessible and enjoyed by all. Prayer is important to the pupils, they are confident and know the Lord's prayer and responses and they use their own prayers at

appropriate times during the school day. The local clergy support and deliver worship and play a significant part in the daily life of the school and the village community. Governors monitor worship and provide detailed feedback to the full governing body enabling changes and improvements to be made.

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

The headteacher's open leadership and emphasis on a whole team approach through her personal faith prompts parents to describe her as an inspirational, enthusiastic, energetic mother figure who does everything with grace. Her vision for pupils, staff and governors has enabled the school to go from strength to strength both in terms of pupils' progress and their spiritual journeys, making St Andrew's a thriving Christian community of excellence. Everything the school does is always considered in terms of the impact this will have on individual pupils and the difference this will make to them. The curriculum is planned through the school's distinctive Christian vision and values ensuring its character shines out in the community. Parents describe the school as getting the best out of each child through encouraging them to be individuals. The headteacher and staff know each child and their parents and carers and encourage partnership by always being available and making time for them. Parents are supported through trust and openness and feel they belong to a wider family. When occasionally tensions do arise these are dealt with calmly in an atmosphere of love, trust and respect and are quickly resolved. Parents describe the staff as wonderful and speak highly of the way they avoid over-exerting pressure on the pupils encouraging them to: 'Do their best and forget the rest.' Staff are developed in their leadership abilities through a shared leadership model and are given regular opportunities to lead the school and attend training opportunities. The governors are involved with the strategic management of the school as a Church of England school and are regular visitors to classes ensuring regular feedback to the full governing body on the school's progress and development. The church and Diocese provide significant support for the school and acknowledge its unique and distinctive Christian character. The school keeps the community informed through the school's website which has links to St Andrew's church and the five churches of West Hallam. As parents describe the school: 'This school is all about the children. Through the ethos and Christian values everyone has huge respect for one another.'

SIAMS report April 2016 Stanley St Andrew's VC Primary School, Station Road, Stanley, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 6FB