

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

### Frisby Church of England Primary School

Hall Orchard Lane  
Frisby-on-the-Wreake  
Melton Mowbray  
Leicestershire  
LE14 2NH

<b>Current SIAMS inspection grade</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Leicester</b>
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Date of academy conversion	1 June 2013
Date of inspection	5 October 2017
Date of last inspection	5 September 2012
Type of school and unique reference number	Academy 139744
Headteacher	Stuart Northedge
Inspector's name and number	Sheila Grice (165)

#### School context

This is a small rural primary school with 114 children on role, 1.8% of whom are eligible for pupil premium funding. 60% of the children live outside the catchment area. The proportion of children with special educational needs, statements, education health care plan and free school meals is below average. Almost all pupils are from White British backgrounds. There has been a change of deputy head since the last inspection and several new staff. Due to increasing numbers, the school has now moved from 4 to 5 mixed age classes. The school is a standalone academy.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Frisby CE Primary School as a Church of England school are good

- Good Christian leadership provided by the headteacher and religious education (RE) and collective worship leader, along with the active support of staff, governors and the rector, ensures that every child is valued and respected.
- Pupil's behaviour, relationships and attitudes, which are strongly influenced by the school's Christian ethos, are excellent.
- The strong partnership with the local churches has a very positive effect on the well-being of the whole school community.

#### Areas to improve

- Further develop the links between the school's Golden Rules and Christian values so that children can clearly articulate how these values are distinctively Christian in character.
- Increase opportunities for children to plan and lead acts of worship so that their ownership of worship is further enhanced.
- Develop opportunities for children to deepen their understanding of prayer so that they can regularly contribute their own prayers in collective worship.

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

This school successfully nurtures, encourages and challenges learners so that they achieve very well. Standards are high when children leave school at the end of Key Stage 2. Staff 'go the extra mile' to ensure the needs of all children are met, whether academic or social and pastoral care is very good. The school's strong Christian ethos permeates all aspects of school life. Displays have been strengthened to emphasise the school's Christian character. A colourful mural of 'The Big Frieze' in the school hall bears testimony to the importance given to the school's Christian character. Staff and governors are united in their understanding of the importance of the school's distinctively Christian character. This is evident through the school's genuine love and care shown to every child. Christian values of trust, respect and forgiveness are linked to the school's Golden Rules and they are embedded in school life and clearly evident through the children's excellent behaviour and very positive attitudes towards learning. There is a strong ethos in school that everyone make mistakes and people need to forgive each other. Children are encouraged to reflect on any inappropriate behaviour. After one child has apologised, the aggrieved child will often be heard saying, 'I forgive you'. However, although adults are clear how these values are distinctively Christian, children do not always show the same level of understanding.

The strong focus on spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding underpins curriculum provision and supports pupils to make links in their learning and their spirituality, embedding the Christian ethos on a daily basis. Religious education (RE) teaching is given a high priority and the introduction of RE weeks has enabled learners to develop and explore their own spirituality. Children speak confidently about God, 'who is all around us' and 'in my heart'. Pupils enjoy RE. They talk about interesting, creative lessons where they are challenged to 'dig deeper' and where they can reflect and express their own opinions freely. Children respond very well when art is used in RE and they are encouraged to communicate their thoughts through drawing and painting. As a result of high quality, creative experiences, RE contributes significantly towards the children's SMSC development. Children display a good understanding of other cultures and faiths and show a high level of tolerance and respect for all. Parents appreciate the fact that their children are 'very culturally aware' because of teaching received in school.

Activities, such as supporting Store House in Melton Mowbray through their harvest collection and collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, provide regular opportunities for children to show their love and concern for others.

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

Good quality collective worship, which enriches the lives of both adults and children, is clearly at the heart of this school community. There is a strong focus on Biblical teaching and consequently children are developing a good understanding of Bible stories. As one child explained, 'They teach us how Jesus wants us to live.' The attitude of children towards collective worship is very positive because they are actively engaged and it supports their spiritual development. Singing, prayer and reflection time form an integral part of worship. The reflection time, often with a focus on a candle, helps children to think about what they have been learning or just to be calm and still. The use of 'talk partners' enables all children to respond in worship and reflect on the story or teaching. The Lord's Prayer and school prayer are used in acts of worship, but children do not currently have enough opportunities to write their own prayers for use in worship. The use of modern, religious songs enables children and adults alike to engage fully in worship and the singing in the Key Stage 2 assembly observed during the inspection was truly beautiful and uplifting.

Regular visitors including Rev David, from St Thomas of Canterbury Church, and Janet from Frisby Methodist Church, enable the children to have rich, varied experiences, which enhance worship. Children enjoy visiting both churches for worship and RE lessons. Older children are just beginning to plan and lead collective worship, but this needs further expansion as it was identified as a focus for development at the last inspection. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian, using the diocesan collective worship themes and the use of liturgical colours helps children understand the cycle of the Christian calendar. Children can speak confidently about God and Jesus but their knowledge of the Holy Spirit is limited.

Parents like the opportunity to join in worship in church and class assemblies. Their very positive comments in the Golden Book show how much they value and appreciate sharing in these events. Monitoring involving governors and children clearly identifies areas for improvement and both the previous and newly appointed collective worship leaders have been instrumental in ensuring that worship is continually improving. For example, monitoring showed that whole school assemblies were not always meeting the needs of the oldest and youngest children and so a weekly separate key stage assembly was introduced. This has since been increased to twice a week with the result that the needs of all children can be better met.

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

School leaders have effectively established and promoted a distinctively Christian vision at Frisby CE Primary School. Consequently, the school's provision effectively enables all to flourish and achieve well. As one governor said, 'The Christian ethos permeates their lives which is just so wonderful to see'. This is a very happy school where relationships are extremely strong and children feel safe and secure. Everyone is very welcoming and children and parents are listened to. There is a real sense of community. Children of all faiths, and none, feel valued and respected by staff and children alike.

Leaders are focussed on school improvement. They have a very good understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development and have been instrumental in securing changes, particularly in ensuring the needs of all children can be met. The foundation governors, which include the rector, encourage and challenge the school effectively, working very closely with the headteacher and RE and collective worship leader. Governors are fully involved in the role of monitoring and evaluation, which ensures that the school's Christian character is retained. However, this good practice is recent and has yet to become embedded. Evaluations are reported back through staff meetings and governor meetings. Agreed improvements are then fed into the school development plan or RE action plan which ensures improvements are made. The leader for RE and collective worship is enthusiastic, extremely committed and well informed about current developments. She is well supported and able to effectively implement new initiatives, such as Understanding Christianity. Her leadership of RE and collective worship is instrumental in ensuring that both areas contribute to the school's Christian ethos.

Partnerships with parents and local churches are very strong. Parents speak very positively about the benefits of their children attending a church school and they value the strong sense of community and family which encourages their children to look out for each other and help others in need. They appreciate the way children are taught to respect others even when they hold different views. Links with St Thomas of Canterbury Church and Frisby Methodist Church are very good, offering mutual benefit to all. The whole school community speaks enthusiastically about very positive relationships with the local churches and the impact of this can be seen both in school and in church, through attendance at 'Messy Church' and 'Stay n Play'. Rev David is a regular visitor and has built very effective relationships with staff, children and parents. Legal requirements for RE and collective worship are met and full advantage is taken of training for both leaders and governors.

Most of the issues from the previous inspection have been successfully addressed, however opportunities for children to plan and lead worship have only recently been introduced and effective governor monitoring has yet to become embedded. The school is in a good position to continue to develop as a church school.

SIAMS report October 2017 Frisby CE Primary School, Frisby-on-the-Wreake LE14 2NH