



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Measham Church of England Primary School Academy Trust

Bosworth Road, Measham, Derbyshire. DE12 7LG

**Previous SIAMS grade: good**

**Current inspection grade: good**

**Diocese: Leicester**

Local authority: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 25 January 2016

Date of last inspection: 15 & 16 February 2011

School's unique reference number: 139097

Headteacher: Matthew Fisher

Inspector's name and number: Sheila Grice (165)

#### School context

Measham is smaller than the average sized primary school, with 195 pupils on roll. Most pupils are White British. A growing number of pupils are joining the school from Eastern Europe. There are a higher proportion of pupils with disabilities or special educational needs than the national average. Measham is ranked in the top 10% of the most deprived areas in the country. The school converted to an academy in 2012. There have been regular visits from HMI over the last couple of years, to monitor standards and a recent tragic bereavement has impacted on the whole school community.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Measham as a Church of England school are good

- Christian values are firmly embedded in all aspects of school life, resulting in learners having a very good understanding of how these values impact on their own achievement and behaviour.
- The Christian love and care shown to all children makes a significant difference to their lives and collective worship makes a strong contribution towards developing children's spiritual awareness and understanding.
- Pupils' behaviour and attitudes are excellent, leading to confident, happy learners.
- The strong leadership, rooted in Christian values, provided by the headteacher along with the full support received from staff, governors and the rector is a strength of this school.

#### Areas to improve

- Embed the current system of self-evaluation, involving children, staff & governors, in order to secure further improvement.
- Develop children's knowledge and understanding of different faiths in order that children understand and respect difference and diversity.
- Increase opportunities for parents to attend collective worship to strengthen relations.

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

Measham Church of England primary school is a very calm, welcoming school where pupils and adults feel valued and cared for within an atmosphere of Christian love and understanding. Staff and governors are united in their understanding of the importance of the school's distinctively Christian character. Six Christian values, including thankfulness and perseverance, are clearly expressed by all members of the school community. This is evident through the school's approach to showing genuine love and care to every child and member of staff. The family liaison officer is invaluable in providing high levels of care and support to the school's most vulnerable pupils. Children's behaviour and their respect shown towards others are both outstanding. Standards and progress at the end of KS2 are a cause for concern but the school has a variety of effective strategies in place to secure rapid improvement. The wealth of high quality displays in classes and around school affirm that this is a church school. Each class has an area for reflection and children regularly use these areas to write their own prayers or share their worries. The lunchtime club, Prayer Space provides an excellent time when children can, 'Be peaceful, just calm down and think about others'. Activities at the club are sometimes linked to the school's Christian values and this enables the children to consider how they can show these values in their daily lives. High numbers of children attending this club give testament to the importance it holds in the life of the school. Children's spiritual, moral and social development is very good. However, their cultural understanding and knowledge of other faiths needs developing, particularly through the teaching of RE, in order that they fully understand and respect the diversity and difference within other faith communities. There are very close links with the local parish church which continue to deepen and flourish and excellent support was given to staff and children following a recent tragedy which affected the whole village. Children are encouraged to show their care for others through fundraising events and activities like Project Paddington and Pudsey Pot. Parents value the fact that that staff are approachable and support their children, especially in times of family crisis.

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

Good quality collective worship is clearly at the heart of this school community, permeating all aspects of school life. Planning is focused on the school's Christian values and closely linked to Biblical stories with full account taken of the Christian calendar. Visitors, including the rector, Open the Book and Ashby Youth for Christ, enrich the quality of collective worship. The children particularly enjoy assemblies led by the Open the Book team which help them, 'learn more about God and how Jesus wants us to behave'. There is a clear structure within all assemblies which enables children to become fully engaged with the worship. Following the welcome, children recite 'God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit' as three candles are lit. Staff then use the window/mirror/door approach with the window representing the learning, the mirror a time for reflection and the door an opportunity for children to think about what they will take away from the assembly. Assembly then ends with a song and prayers including the Lord's prayer. It is clear from the children's responses that this structure really enables them to understand the importance of prayer, reflection and song in worship. Following the Open the Book assembly observed on the day of inspection children's responses about what they were going to take away with them showed a good degree of understanding of the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Their singing is a joy to listen to because the children sing so enthusiastically. All children are encouraged to share their own prayers in assembly and these prayers show great thought and care for others. Children's understanding of the Holy Trinity is developing and a recent art project which focused on 'What does God look like?' helped children to reflect on their perceptions of God. As one child said, 'God is really important to everyone so we start the day with him'. St Laurence parish church is used to celebrate special assemblies at key points in the school year and parents appreciate being able to share in these acts of worship. Currently there are no opportunities for parents to share in collective worship held at the school. The leader for collective worship has been

instrumental in ensuring that collective worship is continually improving, for example, introducing a clear structure into all acts of worship, greater involvement of children in leading different aspects of worship and specific teaching on the Holy Trinity. Monitoring of collective worship, by adults and children, is now based around the SIAMS framework and this is providing a good view of strengths and areas for development. However, this formal written monitoring has only recently been introduced and it now needs to become firmly embedded in order to secure further improvements in the quality of collective worship.

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

Leaders at all levels promote and acknowledge the Christian values and place them at the centre of school life. The leadership of the headteacher has revitalised the Christian character of the school, 'bringing it to the fore' and making it much more visible in the school. His wise and timely decisions, made jointly with governors, are rooted in distinctly Christian values and every child really does matter. One member of staff commented that since the appointment of the head 'The Christian values are now interwoven through everything we do'. Following discussion with governors, as to how the school could ensure policies and Christian values are linked, all policies when updated include a section relating to Christian values. This ensures the values impact on all areas of school life. Although some insightful written evaluation has taken place regarding the Christian character of the school and collective worship, staff and governors have yet to fully embed the self- evaluation of this as a church school in order to secure tangible improvements in the future and maintain the current good practice. The rector is fully involved in many aspects of school life and she has built very effective relationships with members of the school community, offering spiritual guidance and support, particularly in light of the recent tragedy involving an ex pupil. Full advantage is taken of training opportunities and the newly appointed RE coordinator is well placed to secure further improvements. Very good partnerships exist between the school and St Laurence church, however links with other faith communities and the worldwide church are underdeveloped. The school has experienced a difficult couple of years and it is to their credit that staff remain so happy, positive and determined to ensure the children achieve their very best. The vast majority of issues from the previous inspection have been successfully addressed and staff are committed to continue to develop this as a church school.