



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Dunston St Peter's Church of England Primary School

Back Lane
Dunston
Lincoln
LN4 2EH

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire
Date of inspection: 11 July 2012
Date of last inspection: 16 September 2008
School's unique reference number: 120520
Headteacher: Mr Graham Boyall BA [Hons]
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Lizzie McWhirter MA 244

School context

Dunston St Peter's is a rural primary school on the outskirts of Lincoln. Currently there are 77 pupils who are mainly from a White British background. The school is federated with Digby Church of England Primary School.

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

This school has a very strong sense of being a worshipping and welcoming community. It is a place where Christian values make a difference and where all pupils are encouraged to achieve their best and reach their full potential.

Established strengths

- The strong sense of Christian community modelled by the headteacher and embraced by everyone.
- The pupils' love of learning, seen in collective worship and religious education [RE].
- The close links between church and school.

Focus for development

- Involve pupils and governors in the evaluation of collective worship.
- Establish a gifted and talented register in RE to nurture pupils' spiritual development.

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

Dunston St Peter's sustains a very positive learning environment and is a welcoming community where pupils are proud to belong. Here is a place where exemplary relationships are nurtured. Within this cohesive and inclusive family, there is a strong sense of what it means to be a community in which church and school links are very important. Parents speak of the excellence they find in the holistic approach this school takes, 'holding the whole child very dear'. Parents speak highly of everyone 'adhering to the Christian values of Friendship, Respect and Honesty'. Pupils value their teachers and their friends. The wide range of extra curricular activities, which includes gardening and singing in the school choir, ensures the

school values the widest range of achievement. Pupils feel able to make a positive contribution and enjoy giving to charity through which they experience the Christian values of service and gratitude. Bright, prominent displays around school and the school grounds with its quiet garden greatly enhance pupil's learning. They say, 'it helps to be surrounded by nature' and welcome the opportunity to help design spaces for reflection, both inside and outside the school. Pupils enjoy RE and 'studying beliefs like Christianity, Sikhism and Buddhism'. They understand the difference between church life for Christians and mosque life for Muslims. Pupils show good knowledge of the life of St Peter and are able to relate what they learn to their own lives. For example, they speak of Peter's betrayal of Jesus and Jesus' respect for Peter, encouraging them to be truthful and honest, living out the school's values. Pupils demonstrate a high level of theological literacy. They think deeply and welcome more opportunities to discuss the great questions of life, saying, 'it gives me confidence overall and I am not afraid to ask questions'. To this end, the school plans to take forward a gifted and talented register in RE, ensuring potential of such pupils to be realised, and enhancing standards in this key subject.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The attitude of pupils to collective worship is excellent because the quality of worship offered to them involves them and greatly supports their spiritual development. Pupils enjoy worshipping together in a setting which enables them to encounter Jesus. They know that worship is a special time 'to be thinking about God and Jesus'. The assistant priest is a welcome and regular visitor to school. The 'Godly Play' approach of asking wondering questions to enhance pupils' spiritual development is a tool which is often used by clergy in worship. Pupils say they value worshipping in St Peter's Church as 'in church everybody's there'. They appreciate adults and parents 'hearing the message too'. They make links between Bible stories and their own lives, saying, 'St Paul never gave up, and that encourages me to do things I have fears about.' They also feel inspired by the courage of David against Goliath and say, 'Anything is possible. I'll work hard to do things I want to and one day I will achieve them'. Pupils enjoy writing their own prayers. They pray The Lord's Prayer several times a week and are clear about what forgiveness means to them. They acknowledge that 'no-one is perfect but you can learn not to do wrong again'. They plan and lead worship themselves; an excellent example being the Remembrance Day service. They welcome the opportunity to 'do more as we enjoy planning'. Pupils' understanding of what it means to be part of the wider Anglican communion is experienced through the annual Church Schools Festival at Lincoln Cathedral. Pupils are keen to contribute their thoughts and reflections on worship, thus enabling worship to continually improve in integrity, quality and style. Governors too are keen to embrace this and see this as integral to the continuing development of the school.

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

At Dunston St Peter's there is a real sense of belonging, identity and involvement where church and school are seen working closely together. Everyone models Christian values which are at the heart of this school. The school's Christian foundation is clearly evident and effectively promoted by the whole school community. The school has worked hard since the last inspection. Foundation governors and the Bishops' visitor are actively involved in the life of the school and are open to new ways of moving the school forward, especially in their monitoring and evaluative role. Governors acknowledge that there is work to be done. They have identified clear areas for the future development of the school. These include looking anew at the school's induction programme. Governors appoint effective teachers, providing them with leadership opportunities. As a result, RE is well led and managed. Pupils' work has been displayed in church and there are plans for pupils to have the opportunity to write in 'Church Newsround', the parish magazine. The school values support from the diocese. This ensures the Church of England foundation of Dunston St Peter's is upheld and celebrated by everyone.