

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

### Hook Church of England Primary School

<b>Address</b>	Garth Lane, Hook, Goole. DN14 5NW		
<b>Date of inspection</b>	4 April 2019	<b>Status of school</b>	Voluntary controlled
<b>Diocese / Methodist District</b>	Sheffield	<b>URN</b>	145595

<b>Overall Judgement</b>	<b>How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>Additional Judgements</b>	<b>The impact of collective worship</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Good</b>

#### School context

Hook is a primary school with 209 pupils on roll. The school has a very low level of religious and cultural diversity and very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The percentage of pupils with Education and Health Care Plans is above national averages. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is well below national averages. Attainment on entry is generally below expectation. There have been significant staffing changes since the previous inspection, including the head, deputy and another senior member of staff. However, the current headteacher has taught at the school for 18 years. On June 1st 2018 the school joined the Swanland Education Trust.

#### The school's Christian vision

To create a challenging learning environment which enables each individual to achieve their highest potential through the promotion of creativity, imagination, positive attitudes, independence, and excellence in a supportive, caring Christian atmosphere of mutual trust and respect, equipping the individual with necessary skills to cope with an ever changing world.

#### Key findings

- Every child, including the most vulnerable, is treated with the utmost respect, with bold decisions made to ensure their individual progress.
- Christian values and ethos are lived out on a daily basis and underpin the life of the school, allowing everyone involved to develop personally and spiritually.
- The innovative, creative and challenging curriculum is promoting holistic education, inspiring pupils to become independent, imaginative and highly achieving individuals.
- The quality of the relationships is exemplary. The way the school works, with collaboration in planning and organisation, enables staff to flourish and inspires the young people around them.

#### Areas for development

- Consider the public face of the school to make clear the difference that the outstanding Christian distinctiveness is making to all involved, including collective worship and religious education (RE).
- Formalise the monitoring of collective worship to involve pupils to a greater extent.

## **How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?**

### **Inspection findings**

The distinctively Christian nature of the school is the driving force behind everything it does. There has recently been a consideration of the theological rationale underpinning the work of the school, involving senior leaders and clergy. The focus on the creative curriculum and the biblical way of wisdom results in an inclusive and uniquely transformative school. Pupils speak in terms of 'God is in our school', which is a reflection of the way that they work together and enjoy being part of the school family. Everyone flourishes because they feel extremely valued as individuals and are treated with the greatest of dignity and respect. Leadership is innovative and strong. The school has been nationally recognised for the curriculum it has created, which is built on the firm Christian foundations evidenced in the theological rationale. The recent move to the Swanland Educational Trust was very carefully chosen as there is to be no dilution of the Christian distinctiveness of the school as they strive to be 'Exceptional Together'. The outstanding Christian distinctiveness is not reflected in the contents of the website. There is little on paper to indicate that the school has a Christian foundation and is living it out daily. There are strong and productive links with the diocese, where the school regularly accesses training. There are effective systems in place to ensure that school leaders and governors have a very clear understanding of the impact of the Christian vision and distinctiveness of the school. The school's governing body holds the leadership team to account to ensure excellent standards are being achieved, in line with the vision. As a result, leaders make informed judgements on future developments. Religious education (RE) plays a central part in the life of the school. The subject is extremely well led and managed. The subject is embedded within the creative curriculum where appropriate or taught as a separate subject, enabling pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world faiths. The positive impact of the Understanding Christianity materials is beginning to have an effect but it is not yet fully embedded. These materials lend themselves extremely well to the way the school curriculum works and thus are being embraced. Awe and wonder are the focus for the spiritual development within the school. Curiosity and questioning are actively encouraged by staff, who confidently engage with pupils. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions, give their opinions and speak openly in a safe and supportive Christian environment, whilst respecting the feelings of others. The way the curriculum works is enabling pupils to make connections and understand a wide range of topics within the broader Christian framework of the school.

The curriculum, learning environment and quality of relationships are enabling all pupils to grow and develop to their full potential. There are effective personalised interventions as the staff have an intimate knowledge of the needs of every child. Pupils are very proud to be part of the school and church family. Vulnerable pupils are extremely well supported, enabling them to participate fully in the life of the school. Pupils and staff demonstrate high levels of mutual respect for all aspects of individuality within the school. To support the global awareness of pupils they have attended an Environmental Conference held by the Children's University of Hull. Pupils now intend to lead an eco group to improve the impact of the school on its environment. There is great emphasis put on pupils being responsible for their own behaviour, which is having a very positive result. Pupils demonstrate an understanding of this and enjoy being rewarded with Golden Time. This produces pupils who behave very well and enjoy coming to school, resulting in above average attendance figures. The wellbeing of staff and pupils is important and the relationships observed within the school are outstanding. Pupils benefit from a good range of extra-curricular activities which is encouraging them to 'live life in its fullness'. Responsibilities are taken very seriously by pupils who greatly value the chance to be 'ambassadors'. Parents feel a valued and integral part of the school. They say that 'the school cares about every child which reflects its' ethos', 'everyone really gets on and it feels like a family' and 'it is making the children very caring and accepting'. They say that the school regularly 'goes the extra mile' when dealing with them and their children.

Collective worship is central to the life of the school with the Christian vision and distinctiveness being enhanced and embedded there. Pupils agree that it 'teaches you about God and Jesus' and it 'shows us how to be thankful for what we have'. The school extends its excellent work beyond its boundaries. Pupils and parents thoroughly enjoy coming together to worship in the church on a regular basis. Worship is led by a variety of people, including staff and a range of visitors, who inspire and engage everyone involved. Worship is not currently formally monitored to explore the impact it is having on both staff and pupils. Elements of liturgy are used to great effect and pupils and staff are developing and growing through the worship experience. Biblical stories and Christian teachings are used appropriately for the age range. Pupils speak with clarity about the Trinity and their ideas about it, as it is taught within the RE curriculum as well as in collective worship. Prayer plays a very important part in school life. Pupils are encouraged to write their own carefully thought-out prayers and use

them in daily prayer times. There are exceptional links with St. Mary's Church which manifest in both formal and informal communication. For example, the school visits the church regularly and local clergy are on hand for support and guidance. Parents agreed that these links are enhancing the Christian distinctiveness of the school. There are also very strong links with the family of schools within the Education Trust. A parent accurately reflected that, 'the school is part of the community - village school - village church'.

Headteacher	Caroline Ainley
Inspector's name and number	Louise Patterson (310)