



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Rudham Church of England VC Primary School

School Road  
East Rudham  
Kings Lynn  
PE31 8RF

**Previous SIAMS grade: Good**

**Current inspection grade: Good**

**Diocese: Norwich**

Local authority: Norfolk

Dates of inspection: 8th May 2015

Date of last inspection: 23rd June 2010

School's unique reference number: 121084

Headteacher: Belinda Allen

Inspector's name and number: Jenny Daniels 664

### School context

Rudham Church of England Primary is a smaller than average school which serves the parish of East Rudham as well as taking children from many surrounding villages. Most children are of White British heritage. The school is part of a well established federation with a neighbouring Church school which shares the same executive headteacher. The current headteacher has been in post since September 2013.

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

- The extent to which leaders of the school articulate an explicit Christian vision has an impact on the well-being of the whole community.
- Relationships between all members of the school community are a key strength and conflicts are always dealt with speedily, compassionately and fairly.
- Children enjoy contributing within collective worship (CW) and are increasingly taking responsibility for particular aspects enabling them to identify clearly the distinctive features of different Christian traditions in worship.

### Areas to improve

- Establish a revised set of distinctively Christian values and vision for the school to contribute to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all children regardless of their ability or background.
- To develop prayer in the life of the school so the children understand the part prayer can play in their lives, the purpose of prayer and are enabled them to contribute their

own prayers to collective worship (CW).

- Increase the overtly Christian signage with a focus on the school's website to celebrate the school's identity and make their public face more overtly and distinctively Christian.

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

The school is fully inclusive and welcomes children from surrounding villages. There is a caring philosophy based on mutual respect and the Christian values of love and acceptance. The behaviour of the children is good. They talk enthusiastically of the roles they are proud to hold in supporting the younger children at lunchtimes in the dining hall and as play pals. Positive behaviour is promoted in line with the school's core Christian values of respect and forgiveness. Children talk of how Jesus showed the importance of forgiveness in the story of the Prodigal Son. These values are reinforced by all staff throughout the day both inside the classroom and at lunchtime. Positive relationships exist between all members of the community. This is a strength of the school and rooted in the school's Christian ethos. The children have a strong sense of service for others and community. This is demonstrated at lunchtime when the children sit as a family, all year groups together, to eat their dinner, taking turns to serve each other with drinks and desserts. Buddy systems are in place for those children who find aspects of school and home life a challenge. Behaviour is managed through a reward system which reinforces and embeds the understanding of the Christian principles of admission of wrong doing and shared forgiveness and any conflicts are always dealt with speedily, compassionately and fairly. Children say they 'feel safe' at school and talk proudly of their school and the good relationships they have with each other as demonstrated when talking to the school council. The undercover, outdoor classroom, provides an area for quiet and reflection enhanced by the use of visual prompts of Christian values. Displays in and around the school provide opportunities for reflection. A recent religious education focus on 'Our favourite Bible stories', resulted in a large display to which all the children across the school made a contribution. The children have a good understanding of the Christian faith as evidenced by one pupil describing their imaginary 'Flower of Reconciliation' as having "Love that will spread and grow". Pupils learn about different cultures and faiths and all groups of children, including the most vulnerable and those who speak English as an additional language, make good progress (Ofsted May 2014).

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

CW is central to the school and meets all statutory requirements. There is a structured process for the planning and evaluation of CW in place led by the Headteacher. Worship is planned systematically so that there is continuity, cohesion, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. CW is distinctively Christian based on biblical teachings, setting out the values of the school in their Christian context. Key festivals are celebrated at the parish church as well as a termly Eucharist which many parents attend. Adults are invited to receive the bread and wine and many children go forward to receive a blessing. Key themes are based around the liturgical calendar and pay close attention to the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Children enter the school hall quietly and behave well, are mostly attentive and respond to the different elements. A quiet time of reflection is always included. The children talk enthusiastically of those times when they are actively involved in the CW through the fortnightly 'Messy Assembly' and could recall many stories from the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. At these times the older children pair up with the younger children and support them through the practical, hands-on experience. A weekly CW is led by the Rector. The worship group enjoy contributing within CW and increasingly take responsibility for the setting out of chairs and playing the music but additionally choosing and reading the prayer and leading on presenting the symbols of the Bible, cross and candle to symbolise the Trinity at the beginning of each CW. Members of the worship group express their sense of responsibility in fulfilling this role. Children experience prayer on a regular basis and are able

to recite the Lord's Prayer but they have limited understanding of its value and relevance to everyday life. They currently do not contribute prayers to school worship or play any other part in the planning. The children are able to talk about the key Christian festivals and have some understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As highlighted as an area for development at the last inspection, there has been a significant increase in the monitoring of CW by the foundation governors and school leaders. This has become routine and includes the views of pupils, staff and parents. There is evidence of the school responding to monitoring outcomes through the recent reintroduction of the 'Messy Assembly'. The impact of CW is evidenced when one year 4 boy, on being asked what CW means to him, responded by saying, "It sucks you in!" All staff lead CW on a rota but not all staff attend CW on a regular basis.

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

Governors, alongside the Headteacher, articulate their role in supporting the school and are fully committed to strengthening the school's strong Christian ethos as evidenced through minutes of meetings where the Christian ethos of the school is a regular agenda item. They have a good understanding of the school's strategic developments regarding ethos and Christian character based on the school's self evaluation strategies. The foundation governors articulate an explicit Christian vision for the school which aims to have distinctively Christian values at its core through the recent commitment undertaken to revisit the school's vision and values. The school has the further development of the school's Christian distinctiveness as one of the key priorities in the current school development plan for this academic year with the aim to work closely with the Diocese of Norwich and with another local federation. There are clear recruitment and induction procedures in place which are designed to ensure new employees are sympathetic with the school's values. New staff are alerted to the importance placed upon CW and the Christian nature of the school at interview. All staff have recently undertaken training on the importance of religious education across all curriculum areas. The school's strong Christian ethos underpins all policies and procedures as evidenced through the introduction of an Ethos Committee which focus on working and developing further the Worship Group. The incumbent supports the well-being of all staff through his weekly visits and provides spiritual support through his leading and input into CW. The school has a dedicated display board in the Church which is used to further promote the school's Christian identify and regularly contributes to the monthly church magazine. The church upholds the school in prayer weekly. Parents on the playground talk of the school being "approachable" and a place where, "Staff take time to nurture the children". Parents articulate how pleased they are with the school and support the school in many practical and fund raising ventures including the monthly "Master Baker" fundraising event led by the school council. Parents welcome the 'open door' policy that exists, are comfortable approaching the school and feel valued. The school is actively involved with other Church schools within the Diocese and across the federation. The Headteacher regularly attends network meetings to support her own professional development. Since its last inspection the school has increased its Christian signage across the school and introduced a quiet, reflective seating area within the school grounds. The school's web site is in need of development to further strengthen the school's Christian character and distinctiveness.

SIAMS report 8th May 2015, Rudham C of E VC Primary, East Rudham ,Kings Lynn, PE31 8RF

