



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

William Law Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Twelvetree Avenue
Werrington
Peterborough
PE4 5DT

Diocese: Peterborough

Local authority: Peterborough

Date of inspection: 7 February 2014

Date of last inspection: 28 November 2008

School's unique reference number: 110858

Headteacher: Mrs Tracey Cunningham

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Lizzie McWhirter MA 244

School context

William Law Primary School shares its building with Emmanuel Church, serving the village of Werrington on the outskirts of Peterborough. Currently there are 628 pupils on roll, with over 27 languages spoken in school, so the children experience many diverse cultures. The majority of pupils are from a White British background with significant numbers from a White European or Pakistani/Indian heritage. 23% of pupils come from one of the most deprived postcodes in the country, 13% pupils are eligible for free school meals and the number of pupils with special educational needs is below average. The headteacher has been in post for three and a half years.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of William Law as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The care for the individual child within an inclusive and supportive Christian environment.
- The positive attitude of the pupils who become confident learners and are challenged to succeed.
- High quality experiences offered in collective worship and religious education [RE], nurturing pupils' spiritual development.

Areas to improve

- Establish a forum for children and adults to discuss together the deep questions of faith and life.
- Enhance the evaluation of collective worship by involving pupils and governors to ensure best quality worship at all times.

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

William Law Primary School sustains an excellent learning environment, where pupils are proud to belong, feel valued and achieve highly. It is a place where God is acknowledged to be at the

centre and where children are the cornerstone. Pupils explain the school's strapline of Learning, Living and Loving Together as 'we are loved all together no matter what we do'. They also speak of their founder, William Law, as 'a lovely man who devoted his life to helping others and put his needs out of the way to help others first. Every time someone says his name, you should be really proud'. Data shows that pupils are achieving above the national average in core subjects and that all pupils are making progress in this school where very positive learning experiences take place. Every fortnight the headteacher meets each of the team leaders in this large primary school to track progress. Much supportive work is carried out with pupils for whom English is an additional language. Attendance is very good and comes with high expectations. There have been few exclusions in this highly inclusive school where every child matters and learning mentors support children with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties. Pupils excluded from other schools are given new starts here, 'as Zacchaeus had with Jesus', with reward systems firmly in place to support such children. A good example of this school going the extra mile is ensuring children have a uniform, should there be anyone in need. Parents praise the quality of the good teaching their children receive as well as the 'psychological and mental care for each child so you don't notice it's a big school'. Exceptional music teaching takes place in dedicated rooms and there are many sporting opportunities. Relationships are exemplary and behaviour is excellent and well supported by whole school awareness of William Law's chosen values of love, tolerance, inclusiveness and forgiveness. Pupils experience the Christian values of service and gratitude through singing in the choir and through fundraising activities, such as supporting the local foodbank at Harvest and Operation Christmas Child. Pupils' cultural and global awareness is enhanced through learning about other faiths and cultures, not just in RE and worship, but also through the school's links with sponsoring a child in Africa. Buddy groups provide pupils from each year group with time to learn together and support each other through school whilst the weekly Christian lunchtime club, J-Zone, is attended by 27 children. The courtyard gives pupils the chance to think and pray whilst William's orchard, with its sculptures and seating, enables pupils to contemplate the wonders of God's creation as well as write their own prayers. Bright, prominent displays around school all enhance pupils' spiritual development, including Names of Jesus and What is Trinity?

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The attitude of the pupils to collective worship is excellent because the inspirational and creative experiences offered to them in worship are making a real difference in their lives and the lives of their families. Prayerful and meaningful worship takes place daily, greatly enhancing their spiritual and cultural development, with parents commenting pupils 'learn other countries' songs and hymns in Polish'. They enjoy 'all coming together as one'. Pupils are able to explain The Holy Trinity as 'dividing God into three parts like The Holy Spirit [dove], Jesus [The Son] and God himself [the main person]'. They go on to explain 'Jesus as Saviour who died on the cross for his people; the Holy Spirit guiding us even if we can't see him; and God as a shepherd, guiding you by putting things in your mind as he did Joseph in a dream'. There is great support from the clergy and the local youth worker who are regular and welcome visitors to school. Classes regularly lead whole worship, with pupils reflecting on a Year 5's Out of this World worship as an opportunity to reflect on God's creation. Pupils speak highly of the Eucharist service, which took place last Easter, commenting 'it helps us to remember Jesus, and we would like to be involved more. Currently Year 6 plan and do everything'. Planning and evaluation for worship involves staff, governors, clergy and parents. Prayer is an important part of school life, with pupils saying 'when we pray we have time to reflect and think'. The Lord's Prayer, end of day prayers and buddy prayer are prayed regularly, with Year 5 and 6 pupils writing prayers for The Easter Service. Pupils enjoy worship outdoors, especially in the Garden of Reflection where they can 'go in groups and worship together', saying this helps them 'reflect on the wrong things they've done. Even when we tidy it, we pray before we leave'. They know the importance of forgiveness and 'shaking hands and forgetting, otherwise it will be like holding a great stone on your shoulder'. Pupils can quote chapter and verse of Jesus' teaching on the most important commandment on 'how to make friendships and make friends with one another'. Year 3 are given Bibles by

Emmanuel Church to use throughout their time at school and then in their future lives. Pupils welcome writing down their thoughts on worship for governors to read and action. In all these ways, collective worship is constantly enriching the community life of this Aided school.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

RE has a high profile in this school and is enthusiastically led by the RE coordinator who just teaches RE, ensuring progression in RE is very strong. As a result, teaching and learning is very good and often outstanding; with pupils enjoying RE, saying it is 'my favourite subject as it makes you think and stretches your mind'. The RE subject leader acknowledges that 'class teachers embrace RE and I embrace the creative curriculum where I can'. Standards in RE are as high as other core subjects, with some pupils demonstrating very high levels of achievement and attaining at least Level 5 by the end of Key Stage 2. William Law already has a gifted and able register for pupils in RE, and these pupils have visited Neasden Mandir and other places of worship. There is a systematic method of assessment in place which informs learning and ensures consistency in assessment procedures. Assessment at William Law is also through specific pieces of work following a visit. Marking is purposeful, with pupils recognising what they need to do in order to improve their work. Next steps, already identified as part of future plans, include embedding Level 6 RE for children for whom this is appropriate. Pupils welcome regular in depth group discussions with their vicar on the big questions in life, commenting they already 'write messages on the board about What does Jesus look like? which our vicar looks at' in order to broaden such good practice. A hallmark of William Law is the use of Persona dolls in RE. Each faith has its own doll who visit pupils' homes and their respective places of worship, such as the mosque; and are thus an excellent way to teach young children about diversity in faith. This was recognised in an article in a national RE publication. Pupils can explain Christian concepts such as incarnation and salvation as 'becoming a human being which Jesus did for us 2000 years ago. Jesus is a part of trinity. Jesus became human because God sent him down to earth to be our saviour'. As Silver Award winners, some pupils attended the launch of The RE Quality Mark at The House of Lords and the school received a certificate of excellence in RE.

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

William Law's Christian heritage is very effectively promoted by the headteacher, clergy, governors, parents, pupils and staff so that the school's Church of England foundation is celebrated and secured in this richly diverse school. The pursuit of excellence is demonstrated by a highly successful drive to always improve achievement or maintain the highest levels of achievement in all pupils. Building Learning Powers have been introduced this year 'to help children learn more flexibly, forming some life skills'. Parents praise the fact that 'every child is valued, with the school looking for strengths in their individual achievement'. The headteacher's vision and Christian leadership is instrumental, with the portfolios for both RE and collective worship held by dedicated and specialist teachers who have the sole responsibility for these two key areas in the life of this Aided school, ably exceeding the legal requirements. There are also teaching assistants in each team, supporting teachers and pupils alike. Christian leadership is supported through professional development and training for staff and governors. The RE subject leader leads staff meetings and network meetings, moderating work with the local secondary school and the school acknowledges the importance of regular governor training which the diocese provides. Moreover, governors have addressed all areas from the last inspection and are strongly committed to their values and effective strategic improvement plan and are open to new ways of improving their monitoring and evaluative role. The school has rightly identified worship as an important part of the School Improvement Plan, with Year 2 taking their turn to take responsibility for worship in the summer term. Pupils have a voice through the school council and say they would like to see 'an RE display in every room'. Parents feel valued, involved and included. There are excellent relationships with Werrington Parish Church. This welcoming, worshipping and witnessing community lives out its mission and vision.