



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Heskin Pemberton's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Withington Lane, Heskin
Chorley
PR7 5LU

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Blackburn

Local authority: Lancashire

Dates of inspection: 19 November 2015

Date of last inspection: 22 November 2010

School's unique reference number: 119475

Headteacher: Wayne Bretherton

Inspector's name and number: Paul Adnitt 590

School context

Heskin Pemberton's Church of England Primary School lies in the small, rural village of Heskin on the outskirts of Chorley. There are currently 88 pupils on roll, largely from a white British background. Many of these pupils travel to school from outside the village area. There are 2 pupils with significant special needs. The number of pupils receiving pupil premium is very low.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Heskin Pemberton's as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The strong Christian leadership of the headteacher, supported by a strong and challenging governing body, ensures that the school's Christian character has a strong impact on pupils' academic achievement and spiritual growth.
- Inspiring and inclusive daily collective worship is central to the life of the school. Its quality and vibrancy has a significant impact on pupils' spiritual development
- The outstanding and distinctive Christian ethos permeates all aspects of school life and has an important and affirmative impact on pupils' personal and spiritual development. Behaviour is outstanding.
- Strong links between school, home and the local churches, underpinned by gospel values, provide a positive Christian impact in the wider community.

Areas to improve

- Further promote multi-faith learning to enable pupils to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of other religions and beliefs.

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

The school's distinctively Christian ethos nourishes, encourages and challenges the spiritual and cultural development of the whole community. The seven core Gospel values, including love, respect and forgiveness, are made explicit and are deeply embedded in the daily life of the school. These Christian values clearly contribute to pupils' behaviour which is outstanding. The staff and governors expound these values by example, evidenced by the excellent quality of relationships between all members of the school community. This, together with the emphasis on caring for others, makes an exceptional contribution to the pupils' social and moral development. All pupils feel safe and special and have positive attitudes to their learning. They know they are valued and loved by staff. The pupils are proud of their school and speak confidently about why it is special to them. One pupil commented, 'Our Gospel values affect our behaviour in a good way. If we have a fall out we look at our values and know we have to forgive.' The distinctive Christian character of the school has a significant impact on the excellent academic standards and progress achieved by the end of Key Stage 2. It also impacts on the pupils' excellent personal development. Pupils are highly motivated, exhibit a love for learning and enjoy being in school. Older pupils are positive role models for their younger peers. Parents are very positive about the Christian ethos of the school. One parent remarked, 'The school's Christian values underpin all that the school does. It is a wonderful, loving Christian school. You can feel it!' Interactive worship and religious education (RE) displays both in classrooms and central areas engage pupils and promote prayer, reflection and spirituality. They are a constant reminder that the school is a place where the Christian faith is alive and nurtured. The school's work on the place of Christianity throughout the world is very effective and includes a popular International Week. This ensures pupils have a thorough understanding and awareness of Christianity as a relevant, multi-cultural and vibrant living faith. This is strengthened by the school's commitment to supporting local and international charities. Excellent and imaginative teaching in RE, which is of the highest standard, contributes well to the pupils' spiritual development.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Outstanding collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is lively and vibrant and an integral part of the school day. Pupils enjoy and value worship and speak enthusiastically about its importance to them and the wider school family. Worship develops their spirituality and helps them to reflect on issues they face. It enhances the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, including their awareness of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Consequently pupils are confident when discussing their faith and demonstrate significant levels of spiritual maturity. Opportunities for reflection and prayer help to develop pupils' spiritual awareness. 'Worship is when we ask God for his guidance and ask him for his forgiveness. It's a special time because we are all together as God's family.' remarked one pupil. Pupils are confident in praying and are encouraged to do so, both in worship, and throughout the school day. Their use of prayer is exceptional, sensitive and meaningful. Pupils have a clear understanding of Gospel values because worship promotes them strongly. It also enables pupils to recognise their responsibilities towards others and to reflect on community and personal values. They speak enthusiastically about the value of worship in their lives. Because of this, pupils are respectful and enthusiastic in helping to plan, lead and evaluate their own worship. This is led by the school's Ethos Group, open to all pupils, which is proud of its contributions to school worship and spiritual development. The vicar, the minister of the Methodist church and members of Living Waters Church also play an important part in the worship life of the school. The vicar is well liked by the pupils who greatly value her contribution. One year 6 pupil commented, 'The Rev Polly helps us to understand the Bible and Christian values. She is like a teacher to us. As a church school we have a very strong relationship with the church.' Although the church of St James' The Great is three miles from school all important Christian festivals are celebrated there. Excellent worship displays on the wall and an altar with candle and Bible

provide a clear and positive focus. Monitoring, planning and evaluating are outstanding and include contributions from pupils, staff and governors. This has added significantly to the maintenance of excellent, child centred worship.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Religious education (RE) lies at the heart of the school curriculum. Because the quality of teaching is outstanding it has a significant impact on pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development. The governors have adopted the Blackburn diocesan syllabus for RE. Planning of RE is excellent. The RE co-ordinator regularly and effectively monitors lessons, scrutinises teachers' plans and pupils' work, and holds discussions with learners. This ensures the continued high achievement of pupils in the subject and identifies areas for continuing professional development of staff. Pupils say they enjoy RE because it helps them understand what it means to be a Christian. One Year 6 pupil remarked, 'Christians know that Jesus died on the cross to save our sins. If he hadn't gone through with it we wouldn't be saved.' Effective whole school assessment shows that progress made by pupils from Foundation to Year 6 is at least good and often outstanding. Pupils demonstrate clearly the impact of RE on their lives and the life of the school. Outstanding teaching, which has pace and challenge, enables pupils to develop a high level of spiritual maturity and knowledge of many of the key aspects of Christianity and the Bible. One Year 6 pupil said, 'The Bible teaches us and helps us to follow the different paths we have to take in our life. It tells us how to live our lives.' Pupils have opportunities to engage with other faiths. However further resources and opportunities are required to provide even greater depth to this area of the RE curriculum. Older pupils apply their learning to possible scenarios in their own lives. They are actively encouraged and supported in this reflection and are keen to discuss their feelings and experiences in lessons.

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

The headteacher leads by example and his Christian faith influences the life of the school. This contributes to the school's outstanding worship and Christian distinctiveness. The headteacher has a strong and clear Christian vision for the school. He is well supported in this by the school staff and the governing body, who are fully committed to their roles and responsibilities. They have a strong commitment to the school's Christian foundation and consistently emphasise the message of the gospel. Continuing professional development of all staff and governors is a high priority within the school. This has ensured that leadership of both RE and collective worship is a strength of the school. All members of the school family make a positive contribution to church school self-evaluation. This explains the present position of Heskin Pemberton's as a distinctive, motivated and caring Anglican church school. The governors' ethos committee ensures that this evaluation is regular, rigorous and effective. The development of the school's distinctive Christian character is a key component in the school's development planning. The influential School Council, together with many other means of service to others, ensure pupils are encouraged to play a responsible role in the life of the school. Parents and pupils speak highly of the school. They feel that the school listens to their views and that problems are dealt with quickly and sensitively. The school works with and for the community and enjoys outstanding links with the church and the locality. This ensures that it is at the heart of the community. It helps pupils understand the involvement of the church in the local and wider context. Heskin Pemberton's is a fully inclusive school where all are welcomed. Pastoral care, family values and community spirit are highly effective and celebrated. This school is an outstanding community that is living out its Christian values.

