



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### **Durrington Church of England Junior School**

Bulford Road  
Durrington  
Salisbury, Wilts  
SP4 8DL

**Previous SIAMS grade:** Good

**Current inspection grade:** Outstanding

#### **Diocese: Salisbury**

Local authority: Wiltshire

Dates of inspection: 15 September 2015

Date of last inspection: 04 October 2010

School's unique reference number: 126324

Headteacher: Jenny Whymark

Inspector's name and number: Linda Windsor (747)

### **School context**

Durrington is a smaller than average junior school serving both the village of Durrington and the surrounding area. Pupils are predominantly of White British heritage. There are a significant proportion of pupils from Forces families (20%). Whilst the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is below average at 6%, an above average percentage of pupils (28%) have a special education plan, of which seven pupils have an Education Health Care plan (formerly known as a statement of special educational needs). Attendance is good. The school has been without an incumbent for over a year but work closely with the Christian Churches Team.

### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Durrington Junior School as a Church of England school are outstanding**

- An inclusive school, where the logo, "Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day", is seen in action and really makes a difference.
- Relationships across the school are excellent with all staff working together to ensure pupils thrive and all are valued as unique individuals in God.
- The importance and rigour given to Religious Education as a core subject ensures standards are high and that pupils are engaged and interested.
- The links between the school, the local church and Christian Churches Team, parents and the wider community are strong and effective, benefitting all involved.
- The leadership and management of this school quietly ensure that their Christian values influence all their decisions and that the pupils are always at the forefront of their actions.

### **Areas to improve**

- Provide more opportunities for pupils to plan and lead whole school worship.
- Identify staff and governor training needs and make full use of Diocesan professional development programme to update and refresh, as appropriate.

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

In this school, the Christian ethos and values guide everyone's actions and enhance all aspects of school life. The school logo, 'Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day', is seen in daily life and is securely linked to the school's Christian values of Truth, Kindness and Respect. The values are rooted in the gospels and were developed in full consultation with all stakeholders, thus giving ownership to all involved. The school cares for each child as a unique creation of God, working with pupils from their own baseline and helping them to "be the best they can be." As a result, pupils do well and leave the school with attainment in reading and mathematics generally above the national average. Progress in all areas, measured from pupils' baselines, exceeds expectations. Attainment in writing, across the school, is an identified issue and the school has robust plans for improvement in this area. Parents say their children's good progress is due to the Christian love and care shown to each pupil. One parent explained, "Both my children have problems but the school supports them well and gives them the confidence to succeed." Behaviour is excellent, with the positive Christian relationships across school being a decisive factor. Any issues are dealt with calmly and fairly and are referenced to the school's Christian values. Pupils have a clear understanding of right and wrong and can link this to biblical teachings and to the school's Christian values. Pupils with particular behavioural issues do well because they know they will always be supported and forgiven and that each day brings a fresh start. Attendance is good and the school works with parents and pupils to ensure ongoing improvements. Pupils say they enjoy school and they talk enthusiastically about their "brilliant" headteacher, the "kindness" of the staff, who "always have time to help us" and the "exciting" lessons they provide. Spirituality is given a high priority with many planned, quality opportunities provided for pupils to develop their own personal spirituality. Pupils were able to articulate their understanding of this. One child described class circle time as a chance to think about others whose lives are disrupted by war or disaster as well as to think about their own lives with its joys and sadnesses. The development of a spiritual garden is underway and pupils were keen for this to happen as it would give them a quiet oasis in a busy playground. Religious education (RE) in school supports pupils in understanding the diversity of faiths and cultures, including different Christian practices. Whilst in a predominantly White British area, the school encourages those of other faiths or ethnicity to share their experiences and the RE syllabus enables pupils to explore other faiths in some detail. Pupils enjoy this and understand the value in it, one saying, "We won't always live in Durrington so we need to know about other people." Parents are extremely complimentary about the school, describing it as "a happy place; the kids love it!"

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

Worship is central to the life of the school and the careful planning reflects its importance and its influence on school life. The planning ensures regular reference to biblical teachings, in particular to the life and teachings of Christ, and this both informs and impacts on pupils' attitudes and behaviour. Pupil feedback endorses this link, with pupils saying that the Bible stories they know influence them and make them more aware of the need to respect others. All key Christian festivals are celebrated, either in school or in the local church. Although without an incumbent at present, the school works closely with the area's Christian Churches team who support the school extremely well in delivering worship sessions, also sharing advice and expertise when needed. Worship in school features many aspects of the Anglican tradition although this is being developed still further, with a focus to the liturgical colours and the greater use of response prayers. The worship observed, led by the headteacher, was focused on the school's Christian values and was linked to a short Bible reading. It was excellent and set the scene for the coming school day. The local church is very well used both for services and as a teaching resource. As a result, pupils feel very comfortable there and participate well. Whilst pupils have a developing understanding of the concept of the Trinity, the school is aware of the need to develop this further through worship although it is a feature in RE lessons. A number of people lead worship and pupils enjoy having different speakers, making the worship experience varied and engaging. The pupil Worship Team plan and lead a worship termly, although this is

still very much in the development stage. The team themselves are keen to lead worship more often. Other pupils contribute to worship sessions frequently and confidently throughout the term. Prayer is much valued in school. Pupils often contribute prayers spontaneously but with sensitivity and thought. Written prayers may go in the prayer request book and are at the heart of the worship each Friday. Pupils talk about prayer naturally and comfortably and understand prayer as talking to God in praise, to ask for help or to give thanks. Worship is well monitored by governors. They regularly attend school worship and engage in discussion with pupils to understand its positive impact and areas to improve. This has led to some changes, such as the better involvement of pupils with learning difficulties. Statutory requirements for worship are met.

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

This is a school with a clear and well-articulated Christian vision, realised in daily life that drives the school to work effectively in providing pupils with an environment where all can thrive. This is seen in action with all staff acting as role models and all pupils supporting each other in making the right choices. The Golden Rules, drawn from the school's Christian values, are known and referenced regularly, resulting in the excellent behaviour, learning and attitudes of the pupils. Staff and governors have an excellent understanding of how the Christian ethos of the school has a direct and positive impact on all aspects of school life. Governors also understand how it impacts still further, with all aspects of school improvement being guided by the school's Christian vision. All relevant policies have clear links to the school's Christian values and mission. Links with the local church are excellent and the local Christian Churches team supports the school ably, despite having no parish incumbent at present. Foundation governors are active in school life. They know the school well and the governors' Children's Committee has a thorough understanding of all aspects of school life - what is going well and what needs to improve. Whilst there has been no recent diocesan training, the headteacher is clear this needs to be made better use of, ensuring relevant staff and governors are up-to-date in all aspects of leading and managing a Church school. Recruitment procedures are secure in ensuring all staff are, at the least, in sympathy with the school's Church school status. RE is well led and managed by a specialist RE teacher and standards are good. RE has a high status in the school, reflected in the time allocated, the resources given and in the quality of work. Statutory requirements for RE are met and, indeed, exceeded. Parents and pupils are united in their enthusiasm and love for the school, one pupil saying, "I'm so lucky to come here!" All previous inspection action points have been addressed.

SIAMS report September 2015 Durrington Junior School, Durrington, Wiltshire SP4 8DL