

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Clipston Endowed Voluntary Controlled Primary School

High Street  
Clipston  
Market Harborough  
Leicestershire  
LE16 9RU

#### Diocese: Peterborough

Local authority: Northamptonshire  
Dates of inspection: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
Date of last inspection: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
School's unique reference number: 122013  
Headteacher: Mrs Emma Mercer  
Inspector's name and number: Edward Husbands 481

#### School context

The school serves the village of Clipston and four other neighbouring villages, with a third of the pupils living outside the catchment area. There are 122 pupils on roll, nearly all being of White British Heritage. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs is below the national average, as is the proportion who are eligible to receive free school meals.

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

This is a school which provides a caring and loving learning situation for all the pupils. Its Christian ethos and the standard of teaching leads to the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development being of a high quality. The links with the parish church and the local community and the commitment of all, results in pupils' academic progress and personal development both being very good.

#### Established strengths

- A clear vision based on Christian principles and values
- The commitment of the whole school community to the well-being and development of each individual pupil
- The excellent leadership provided by the headteacher, well supported by staff and governors

#### Focus for development

- Extend and broaden the variety of pupils' knowledge of other faiths and cultures by visits to places of worship and invitations to visiting speakers
- Include pupils in the formal monitoring of collective worship
- Implement plans to monitor and evaluate the quality of classroom-based worship and its impact on spiritual development

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

Through its distinctive Christian character, the school makes very good provision to meet the needs of all learners. Academic standards are high. Religious education, where standards are in line with other subjects, and collective worship are greatly valued and make a strong contribution to the pupils' spiritual understanding and development. The school environment celebrates the school's Christian foundation and helps to support the pupils' spiritual growth, with the school's mission statement, "Every child matters to God" being clearly visible in the school entrance area. Attractive religious education displays are prominent throughout the school, which together with a range of Christian signs and symbols effectively supports pupils' spiritual development. The impact of these has been to enhance pupils' awareness of God's world and their place in it. Pupils enjoy their visits to the parish church of All Saints' and the regular leadership of worship by the parish priest. Pupils are happy, behave well and work co-operatively together. They are proud of their school and pupils' typical comments

about teachers are, "They make lessons fun and interesting", and "They help us, and are very supportive". Relationships are excellent and this is an important strength of the school. Pupils show care and concern for all members of the school community. They are encouraged to grow in independence and they enjoy the responsibilities given to them as they grow older. This and their participation in a variety of charitable and community events has helped in the pupils' growing understanding of the lives and needs of others. However the school recognises that the next step to improve pupils' awareness of other major religions and cultures is to increase visits to different places of worship and to invite more visiting speakers, and for this to become an integral part of their RE curriculum. Parents appreciate the warm welcome and inclusive nature of the school. The extra-curricular activities available to pupils cover a wide range of interests and aptitudes. Parents and the local community are very supportive of the school and this relationship is very strong. As one parent commented, "This is a good school. The education here has the children at the heart of all they do."

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

Worship is central to the life of the school. It is seen as a time to get together, to explore and share the Christian values that underpin the work of the school. Themes, which include stories and traditions of the Christian faith and events from the church year are, with the help of worship leaders, well planned, but also allow other issues to be addressed as they arise. Pupils gain a variety of worship experience due to the involvement of a range of leaders that include the headteacher, all members of the teaching staff, the parish priest and other visitors as well. Worship, much enjoyed by pupils, is also a celebration of achievements, both in and out of school. Following recommendations in the last Section 48 report the implementation of formal monitoring has helped to inform future development, but there is scope to widen this by firstly, implementing the monitoring and evaluation of class-based acts of worship, and secondly by involving the pupils in the formal monitoring procedures. All pupils understand that the special time of worship is a time, "to think and talk to God". Their behaviour and response in worship is very good; it is a time of tranquillity and calm. During worship there are opportunities for the pupils to have time for prayer and for silent reflection. They all know the Lord's Prayer, which is recited regularly. Pupils visit the parish church for services at least once a term, such as for Harvest Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and for the end of the Year 6 leaving service. Parents and friends are invited to these services, which they enjoy and which are always well attended.

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

The headteacher's vision clearly reflects the school's Christian values and contributes significantly to the pupils' development. She is a good role model for pupils in their relationships and in their management of the school. She is well supported by the staff and governors. The teaching of RE is well managed and is ably tracked and assessed. The quality of the school's self-evaluation is sound. This is a welcoming school, with clear displays of its church foundation. There is a friendly and focused ethos in which it is clear that all aspects of school life and plans for future development are centred on the well-being and progress of the pupils, and are based on Christian values. The headteacher ensures that all prospective parents are made fully aware of the school's Christian ethos. She, the governors and staff work together to promote the Christian vision of the school and encourage continual improvement. Parents appreciate the school's 'open door' policy and other ways by which the school seeks to create a positive attitude amongst them. They are appreciative of the good communications and the fact that their views are sought on a number of issues, including the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a church school. They speak highly of the pastoral care, which in many cases, is the reason why parents choose for their children to attend Clipston School. An extremely successful Parents Association works hard, not just to raise funds but also to organise social events for parents and friends. Community cohesion is good, links having been set up with schools locally, nationally and in India and Kenya. The school enjoys a productive relationship with the local community and appreciates its relationship with the diocese. There is clear evidence that the well-being of staff and pupils is a high priority and the school is constantly sensitive to meet the needs of all.