



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Bourne Abbey Church of England Primary Academy

Abbey Road
Bourne
Lincolnshire
PE10 9EP

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lincolnshire

Local authority: N/A

Date of inspection: 11 March 2015

Date of last inspection: 25 March 2010

School's unique reference number: 136354

Executive Headteacher: Cherry Edwards OBE

Inspector's name and number: Jackie Sheldrake 255

School context

Bourne Abbey is much larger than the average school. The 687 pupils, including 71 in the nursery, come mainly from Bourne and the large majority are from White British backgrounds. An increasing number speak English as an additional language. The school provides wrap around care facilities through the kindergarten and before and after school child care managed by the governing body. The Academy Trust was established in 2011. Academy Sponsorship was initiated in 2012 enabling the opening in 2014 of a new Church of England Academy school in Bourne. In 2014 Bourne Abbey became a teaching school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bourne Abbey Academy as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The leadership, skill and vision of the executive headteacher, senior staff and governors in promoting and achieving a clear and distinctive Christian ethos that welcomes, values and nurtures all.
- High quality teaching, focussed on pupils' individual needs, within an outstanding culture for learning leads to the very high level of progress for all groups.
- The strong and positive impact of collective worship which inspires and sustains the Christian character of the school and contributes much to pupils' outstanding level of spiritual and personal development.
- Within a deeply inclusive and reflective setting, all are encouraged to be the best they can be whilst expressing their understanding of Christian love by reaching out to meet the needs of others.

Areas to improve

- Widen the ability of all members of the school to link the schools' Christian values, which clearly underpin and inspire its work, to biblical teaching.
- In collective worship, ensure that by Year 6 pupils develop the necessary experience and skill to experience full ownership of its delivery, including planning, leading and evaluating, in a range of audiences and settings.

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

Bourne Abbey Academy is a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment. Christian values inspire and direct all aspects of daily life and are proclaimed and celebrated throughout the school's inspirational environment. Love, compassion and hope are strong features and are fundamental to the high quality of teaching and learning. Pupils recognise the inclusive ethos of the school knowing that they are welcomed and valued irrespective of ability or background. They enjoy their time in school and are proud to be members of this welcoming community. Teaching is outstanding across the school and provides very well for all ability groups and learning styles. Academic progress and achievement from entry through to the end of Year 6 is at least good and for most outstanding. Pupils work well both as individuals and groups, 'we listen to each other's ideas and come together as a team'. They are highly motivated and focussed learners inspired by the excellent role model of staff. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. This is achieved through the rich and wide ranging curriculum together with the extensive range of activities and visits. Pupils' personal development and well-being are exceptionally well catered for within this happy and deeply caring school. Behaviour and relationships between all groups of pupils and staff are outstanding. Pupils are able to explore and discuss fundamental issues related to faith and their daily lives. They understand and live out the Christian values that are at the heart of the school. At present their ability to make connections between these values and biblical teaching is underdeveloped. This is equally so for adults associated with the school. The core value, respect, is deeply embedded and is at the heart of the school's work. It inspires each person, child and adult, to be the best they can be and is clearly making a significant impact on pupils' thinking and actions. Pupils have a highly developed understanding and commitment to the rights and needs of others, particularly children, at local, national and international level. Religious education (RE) makes an outstanding contribution to the distinctive Christian character of the school. Together with collective worship it enables a broad understanding and experience of Christianity and other major world faiths. Pupils have a mature grasp of the issues involved in living in our multicultural society.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship upholds and inspires the Christian character of the school and is valued as a major focus of each day. It is of high quality and makes an outstanding contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development. The sense of family at each occasion and the atmosphere of celebration and joy are emphasized by pupils' rousing singing. Themes are centred on the life and teachings of Jesus, the church year and Christian festivals. Collective worship is an inclusive occasion inspiring deep thinking. Skilful delivery, by the executive headteacher, staff and clergy, ensures sensitivity to the beliefs and values of all those present. Each occasion enables a strong link to be made between Christian values, biblical teaching and daily life. Pupils display a mature ability to appreciate the connection between worship themes and their own and others' behaviour and values. Worship whether held as a whole school, key stage or year group is a time of story, reflection and prayer. Pupils' ability to reflect and be still is equally well integrated throughout the daily busyness of school life. Pupils value and respect collective worship. They particularly enjoy worship led by clergy and those involving fellow pupils. Recent evaluation has prompted the growing involvement of pupils in planning and leading worship allowing for a greater sense of ownership. At present, this development is confined to

classroom worship and prayers before a wider audience. The school recognises further growth will enable pupils to confidently plan, deliver and evaluate acts of worship appropriate for a range of audiences and settings. Pupils show a growing understanding of Anglican practice and belief. From the youngest they confidently say that Jesus is 'The Light of the World'. By Year 6 pupils demonstrate a clear understanding of the Christian story and of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Regular school worship held in church, for festivals and times of celebration, makes a strong impact on those gathered. Parents speak of valuing these occasions and of the impact on their own, their children's and others' lives.

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

The vision, commitment and leadership of the executive headteacher, chair of governors and senior leadership team in promoting and strengthening the Christian foundation of the school is outstanding. In this endeavour they are fully supported by a talented team of staff and skilled and dedicated governors. Christian values are embedded in policy and practice and throughout school there is a strong atmosphere of collaboration and teamwork. Equal opportunity for all and the rights of children are rigorously applied across all areas of the curriculum. High quality teaching and learning ensures that all groups, including those with English as a second language achieve very well. Strategic planning and evaluation by leaders is rigorous and effectively used to maintain the momentum of school development. This process is wide-ranging and enables meaningful and valued contributions from all staff, governors, pupils and parents. Highly developed systems of review and development ensure that the well-being of all members of the school remains a priority. The areas for development from the previous denominational inspection have been successfully addressed. They continue to make a positive impact on the leadership of collective worship and RE, both of which meet statutory requirements. The school's capacity to sustain the outstanding quality of provision and its ongoing development as a church school is outstanding. This is recognised and trusted at local, diocesan, and national level. The Academy sponsorship and successful opening of the new church school within the town is a reflection of this trust. Future leadership of church schools is enhanced through the high quality of staff development and their leadership opportunities. This is now furthered through the impact of teaching school status and resulting links with university and schools. Pupils make an important contribution to the life of the school. They clearly play a vital role in its development through the school council and through the pupil voice gathered through discussion and questionnaires. Strong partnerships continue to thrive with the parent body and the parish church and clergy. The school is highly regarded within the local community and does much to strengthen and widen its links and promote social cohesion.

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