



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

### **Naseby Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary Academy**

School Lane  
Naseby  
Northamptonshire  
NN6 6BZ

**Previous SIAMS grade:** Good

**Current inspection grade:** Outstanding

**Diocese:** Peterborough

Local authority: Northamptonshire

Date of inspection: 23 June 2015

Date of last inspection: September 2009

School's unique reference number: 121983

Head of school: Beverley Thornton

Inspector's name and number: Lizzie McWhirter 244

#### **School context**

This small school serves the villages of Naseby, Haselbech and Kelmarsh. There are 66 pupils on roll, who are almost all from a White British background. The number of disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs is lower than average. The head of school was appointed two years ago and Naseby School became part of a multi academy trust with Guilsborough School in April 2014. The parish church of All Saints is adjacent to the school whose incumbent has been in post for two years.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Naseby as a Church of England school are outstanding**

- The dedicated head of school and parish priest are instrumental in promoting the Christian vision of Naseby School. This ensures the strong Christian ethos of the school permeates all areas of school life.
- The level of pastoral care in this Christian family community nurtures all children and supports their families so everyone feels loved and accepted.
- Collective worship engages pupils in planning, leading and evaluating this key aspect of church school life, supporting their spiritual journey.
- Creative prayer spaces are a strong feature of the life of this school, nurturing pupils' spiritual development.

#### **Areas to improve**

- Embed the work of the Section 48 committee, and the monitoring of aspects of Christian distinctiveness, such as religious education[RE].
- Deepen the links between church and school in developing worship which involve and include children and their families.

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

Naseby School provides an inspirational learning environment for the whole school community. Relationships are excellent because all members of this supportive family community continually and consistently demonstrate Christian values in action. There have been few exclusions and attendance is very good as children are happy and want to come to this school. Consequently, all pupils thrive in its Christian culture and ethos. As a result, all pupils feel valued, loved and accepted and achieve well, especially in reading and writing. At Key Stage 1 and in Early Years Foundation Stage children are exceeding age related expectations. In Key Stage 2, where there has been a dip in achievement in mathematics, there is an improving picture with pupils receiving extra support. This is because Naseby includes and nurtures children of all backgrounds, abilities and interests within a Christian environment where the wellbeing of children is of paramount importance. Dedicated staff enable all pupils to grow in self-confidence and succeed in their learning. Excellent examples include the nurture room with its passionate specialist member of staff who supports some pupils with nurture sessions. In addition, the school offers its vulnerable children the experiences of music lessons and trips as well as art therapy. A wide variety of achievement is celebrated, including music and sport. Pupils' global understanding and awareness is well supported through the school's link with a Sudanese kindergarten and fundraising for those in the Nairobi slums. This also supports their understanding of the worldwide Christian church in action. Pupils show respect for diverse communities and cultures through their RE and worship. These make very good contributions to the school's Christian character and pupils' personal development. Consequently, pupils say, 'because we are a Christian school we have Christian values which link to British values'. They go on to say, 'forgiveness is really important in Naseby school because it's important to forgive one another'. Pupils trust their teachers and their friends and say compassion is when you share and help people. Very good examples are seen on residential visits when pupils help each other to climb up the side of a waterfall. They continue, 'koinonia means all of us working together'. Pupils enjoy a rich RE curriculum, which includes visits to Leicester synagogue and Kelmarsch Buddhist centre. Pupils say they enjoy 'learning about other religions and our religion'. They relate the Christian narrative very articulately and can explain incarnation and salvation in their own words. They go on to explain their school badge with 'its circle of crosses like the crown of thorns'. Every available space is used to declare the school's Christian character and nurture spiritual development. As everyone leaves school each day, they are reminded as they look up at the school's doorway to 'go in peace to love and serve the Lord'.

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

Naseby pupils regard collective worship as 'fun and factual' as it engages and involves 'children quite a lot and we all work together well'. It is integral to the life of the school and enjoyed by pupils and parents alike as 'everyone is welcome'. This is because acts of worship promote Christian values and the church year and are linked with a Bible reference where possible. Pupils who are members of the Christian Ethos Team help plan and lead collective worship weekly in school. Very good examples include pupil involvement in church services to celebrate Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Ascension Day to which the local community are invited to attend. As a result, pupils explain Ascension as 'when Jesus goes back in to heaven, he ascends and gives us hope. Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit comes'. Pupils also say they enjoy their parish priest telling them 'a bit more about the story of Jesus'. They are growing in their understanding of The Holy Trinity. They say, 'God created everything. Jesus teaches people about God and to believe in him. He gave us life and died for us. He is also selfless. The Holy Spirit makes us have courage like the disciples at Pentecost'. Staff and pupils evaluate worship, with pupils saying they appreciate worship in church as it is 'quiet and peaceful'. Prayer features very strongly in this school. Excellent examples include the successful prayer spaces held at the Methodist chapel, the well-used prayer trees which acknowledge answered prayer and the newly established prayer shed in the school grounds which encourages creative ways of praying. The section 48

committee has recently identified the desire to start preparation for pupils wishing to receive holy communion. Above all, there is a desire to develop links between church and school in planning services which involve and include children and their families.

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

Parents attribute the success of Naseby School to 'God is at the centre of their learning'. There have been significant staffing changes in a short period of time. However, the school is entering a more settled period. Moreover, the Christian vision and dedication of the head of school and the partnership with the parish priest are instrumental in ensuring the Christian character of the school permeates all school life. As a result, parents speak highly of the head of school and how hard she works to make the school a success. They praise the teachers who are very approachable and the pastoral care they receive, saying the staff 'are so compassionate to us as well'. As a result, they see their children growing in confidence and achieving well. This is because the explicit Christian vision has an impact on pupils' academic achievement. Governors are committed to their regular cycle of review, showing that the school development plan reflects RE, worship and Christian distinctiveness. The Section 48 committee recognise the need to embed the monitoring and evaluation of the school's Christian distinctiveness and RE. This key subject as well as collective worship is led and managed by the head of school. Consequently, both RE and worship meet statutory requirements. Staff in this small, rural school take on many roles and responsibilities. Governors support the professional development of all staff in preparation for the future leadership of church schools. They encourage the emphasis on a collaborative approach, with other schools in the cluster. Community links are good and links with the diocese are strong and supportive. The Battlefields Project is positively linking church, school and village community, with some pupils aspiring to become members of The Sealed Knot when they are older.

SIAMS report June 2015 Naseby Church of England Academy Northamptonshire NN6 6BZ