

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

### **Wainfleet Magdalen Church of England/Methodist Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Magdalen Road  
Wainfleet  
Lincolnshire  
PE24 4DD

**Diocese: Lincoln**

**Methodist District: Lincoln and Grimsby**

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2011

Date of last inspection: January, 2008

School's unique reference number: 120668

Headteacher: Peter Beveridge

Inspectors' name and number: Neville Norcross – NS 403

#### **School context**

Wainfleet is an isolated village in rural Lincolnshire with a significant level of social and economic disadvantage. An above-average proportion of pupils is known to be eligible for free school meals. The proportion identified with special educational needs and/or disabilities is well-above average, nearly a third of all pupils, with 70% of such pupils being in Key Stage 2. Most have moderate or behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. At the time of the inspection the school was experiencing considerable disruption to its normal routines because of a major building programme. The number of pupils who leave or begin school, other than at the normal time is above average; the school roll having risen by 20 since September.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Wainfleet Magdalen as a Church of England/Methodist school are satisfactory**

The headteacher, staff and governors place a strong emphasis on pupils' personal development and well-being. They are very successful in exercising a high level of care for both pupils and their families. This is an inclusive school which is committed to meeting the needs of individual pupils. The pupils respond positively by demonstrating care for each other and very good standards of behaviour. Whilst Christian values underpin much of the school's work they have yet to be made explicit in the daily life of the school and the Christian character is not fully evident.

#### **Established strengths**

- The way in which pupils' well-being and personal development needs are met
- The strong links with the Anglican and Methodist churches and the local community
- The inclusive nature of the school with a strong emphasis on meeting the needs of individuals

#### **Focus for development**

- Ensure that church school issues become a strategic part of the school's development planning processes, including self-evaluation
- Improve the distinctiveness and effectiveness of worship by:
  - ensuring that the planning and organisation support the school's Christian character
  - involving pupils in planning, leading and evaluation
- Make the school's Christian character more explicit in documentation and in the school environment once building work is complete
- Ensure that RE makes a significant contribution to the distinctive Christian character of the school

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

The school is successful in meeting the social and emotional needs of its pupils through well-established and effective systems of care. Older children respond positively to the way in which the school encourages them to support the younger children. Pupils' behaviour and attitudes are very good. They recognise the way in which their school provides them with a high degree of care and a safe environment in which to learn. The school often receives pupils who have been excluded from other schools following unsuccessful and unhappy experiences. Such pupils are welcomed to the school which has very successful strategies for retaining them within the school family. The school's work is thus underpinned by its Christian character although this is not made evident in the day to day life of the school. Whilst parents and pupils recognise and fully appreciate the caring nature of the school they do not generally associate this with the school's Christian character. Whilst Christian values such as respect, kindness and compassion are evident, the pupils are not able to speak about the links between these qualities and the Christian faith. Pupils do not have a secure understanding of key elements of the Christian story such as Eucharist, Easter and Pentecost. This prevents them from linking the many positive elements of the school to its Christian character.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory**

The daily collective worship varies in character and in its impact on the pupils. On one day each week the worship takes the form of a hymn practice whilst on another day it is a celebration of children's achievements. The worship themes cover the church year as well as other Christian concepts. Other themes from the SEAL programme – social and emotional aspects of learning – enable pupils to have an understanding of relationships and feelings. Overall this pattern does not provide sufficient opportunities for the development of pupils' spirituality. The programme for worship, whilst wide-ranging, does not provide sufficient detail for those who are leading, with the result that worship does not always reflect the Christian character of the school. The pupils have mixed views about worship. They enjoy singing and indeed their singing is good. They also enjoy those occasions when they are able to take an active part. Overall, however, they do not have sufficient opportunity to plan, lead and take an active part. The children value and respond positively to those occasions when they are provided with times of reflection. This makes a positive impact on their spiritual development. However these occasions are limited to daily worship. Although prayers at lunch time and home time have been introduced further opportunities for prayer and reflection are limited. The children value the input from leaders and members of the local Anglican and Methodist churches. Services are held regularly in local churches. These strengthen the links between the school and the local community. Leaders of both churches play an active part in the daily life of the school and their involvement is appreciated by the pupils. Each year the pupils become involved with the local British Legion Poppy Day. This links together a poetry competition, a service in the Methodist church and involvement in an act of remembrance. This has a positive impact on their spiritual development and on the school's standing within the local community.

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

The leadership of the school is very effective in ensuring that the pupils' personal needs are met within a safe and caring environment. Leaders have worked hard in challenging circumstances to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils. However, insufficient attention has been given to developing the distinctive Christian character of the school. The inspection report of 3 years ago highlighted a number of issues for development but none has been addressed in a way that will make a positive impact on the pupils. The school's governors work hard on behalf of the school and are very supportive but they have not ensured that the Christian character of the school is given a high priority in the school's development planning processes. The foundation governors have recently formed a committee to look specifically at church school issues. This is a welcome development although it is too early to comment upon any impact which this committee might have had. The RE co-ordinator has only recently been appointed. She is committed to developing the subject in such a way that it makes a significant contribution to the school's Christian

character. Currently there is not sufficient emphasis placed on the teaching of the Christian faith or on challenging pupils to reflect on their own beliefs in the light of the religious experience of others. The links between the school and the Anglican and Methodist churches are strong and parents and pupils have positive views of the contributions of the churches.

SIAS report March 2011 Wainfleet Magdalen C of E/Methodist School PE24 4DD