



**Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools**  
**Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2006**

# **DIOCESE OF LEICESTER**

LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY

St Mary's CE (controlled) Primary School  
Station Road,  
Hinckley,  
Leics.  
LE10 1AW

**Inspection Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009.**

**Section 48 Inspector: Mrs. Wendy Martin (No: 168)**



## SIAS Report Form

<b>Name and address of school:</b>	St Mary's CE Primary School Station Road, Hinckley, Leics. LE10 1AW
<b>Type of school</b>	Primary
<b>Status:</b>	Voluntary Controlled
<b>Diocese:</b>	Leicester
<b>Local Authority:</b>	Leicestershire
<b>Dates of inspection:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2009
<b>Date of last inspection:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2007.
<b>School's Unique Ref. No:</b>	120134
<b>Name of Head teacher;</b>	Mrs. Carol Cooper
<b>Inspector's name (with N.S. No):</b>	Mrs. Wendy Martin (No. 168)
<b>Context</b>	
St Mary's is a large primary school, in the centre of Hinckley, next to the parish church. It is a popular school, with 45% of pupils coming from outside the parish. The Victorian building has been extended, and the school leases part of a building opposite from the borough council. Playground space is limited, and the school uses a nearby park, leisure centre and playing fields for sporting activities.	
<b>Summary Judgment</b>	
<b>The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St. Mary's CE Primary as a Church of England school are good.</b>	
The school is strongly committed to its Christian foundation, and is an integral part of the town community. The school's aims underpin every aspect of it's work, and it's strong Christian ethos allows each individual to flourish, and to feel valued and special.	
<b>Established strengths</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The headteacher has a clear Christian vision, with high expectations of learners.</li><li>• Learners spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent.</li><li>• Each pupil is valued, and feels confident and secure within the school.</li><li>• There is a strong supporting relationship with the governing body, the church and the local community.</li></ul>	
<b>Focus for development</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involve governors, staff and pupils in establishing formal strategies for the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship.</li></ul>	

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

St. Mary's school has a warm, welcoming atmosphere, in which staff, pupils and parents feel valued as individuals. St. Mary's Aims Statement, displayed in the entrance, emphasises the school's commitment to Christian values, and expectations for all learners. Pupils are keen to point out that panels depicting the Creation Story, and a clay tile picture of the church, which they have produced, act as a permanent reminder that theirs is a Christian community. Pupils and parents are enthusiastic about the strong links with St. Mary's Church, and the active involvement of other local churches, such as a Bible exhibition, run by the Baptist Church, and services attended by the school in the United Reformed Church. Christian values of mutual respect and forgiveness are modelled by school adults, resulting in excellent behaviour across the school. Pupils and parents are confident that any problems will be resolved swiftly and fairly. School councillors are proud of their role, and feel that their views are respected. The school's Christian ethos supports spiritual awareness, and good progress in moral, social and cultural education is evident through pupil responses, and displays of work. Awards for achievement and effort are appreciated by pupils and their parents, who feel that each individual's talents are recognised and valued. Supporting a wide range of charities gives pupils an insight into the lives of those less fortunate. Involvement in events such as singing in the shopping centre and residential homes, and participating in the town's annual carnival, allows the school to build positive relationships with the local community, while links with schools in France and India are giving pupils a sense of their place in the global community. Pupils take great pride in their school environment, and are currently involved in designing colourful panels to improve the cloakrooms. Parents appreciate the care taken for their children's safety.

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

Worship is an integral part of school life, following a programme of themes which reflect the Christian calendar, and making a strong contribution to pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Worship is lively and interactive, and the headteacher and staff have listened carefully to the views of pupils. More emphasis on modern songs has led to engagement and enjoyment by all pupils, while an interactive whiteboard provides visual images as a focus. Pupils value quiet times for reflection during worship, and one pupil said "It warms my heart to be able to think quietly about God." The vicar is a regular and popular contributor, and has produced a sung version of The Lord's Prayer which is clearly enjoyed by all. Pupils confidently lead services such as Harvest, Christmas, and Easter in St. Mary's Church, with parents and the local community valuing the opportunity to attend. Personnel from other local churches lead worship on a rota basis, following the planned weekly theme. Class worship is led one afternoon per week by each class in turn, and parents enjoy being invited. Older pupils provided a thoughtful version of the nativity story, which clearly engaged younger pupils. The school provides informal monitoring and evaluation of worship. A more formal procedure, with staff and governors working together, will ensure that all acts of worship are of the same consistently high standard.

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

The headteacher has made a strong impact on the Christian ethos of St. Mary's School. With full support from staff and governors, she provides very effective leadership. A carefully costed and monitored improvement plan for the hall has made it a more attractive setting for worship and other activities. Staff and foundation governors have used the Self Evaluation Toolkit to provide effective monitoring and evaluation of the school as an Anglican school. Feedback is provided on progress at governors meetings, ensuring that the distinctive Christian character of the school is kept high on the agenda. The headteacher and co-ordinator for Religious Education have provided good quality resources to enhance teaching of Christianity and other major world religions. Displays throughout the school are of a high quality, with Christian symbols and artefacts evident in all areas. Parents say they are regularly consulted, and that their views are valued and acted upon.