



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

# Diocese of Leicester

Leicestershire Local Authority

**Thurnby St Luke's Church of England (voluntary  
controlled) Primary School**

Main Street  
Thurnby  
Leics  
LE7 9PN

**Inspection Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009**

**Section 48 Inspector: Mrs E M McWhirter MA (No: 244)**



## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

<b>School name and address:</b>	<b>Thurnby St Luke's Church of England Primary School</b> Main Street Thurnby Leicestershire LE7 9PN
<b>Diocese:</b>	<b>Leicester</b>
Local authority:	Leicestershire
Dates of inspection:	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2009
Date of last inspection:	26 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2009
School's unique reference no:	120166
Headteacher:	Mrs J Sembi
Inspector's name (and no):	Mrs E M McWhirter, MA (No: 244)
<b>School context</b>	
<p>St Luke's is a large rural primary school on the outskirts of Leicester. A large number of pupils travel from outside the catchment area. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds but the school enjoys diversity in its pupils from other ethnicities. Pupils leave this school at the end of Year 5.</p>	
<b>The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Thurnby St Luke's as a Church of England school are outstanding</b>	
<p>St Luke's is an excellent church school which truly lives out its aim to 'celebrate, grow, improve, care, aim high and achieve together.' Under the leadership of the headteacher and in partnership with the church, governors and the whole of the community, this church school has shown what can be achieved when communities are united in a common purpose.</p>	
<b>Established strengths</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The spiritual vision and leadership of the headteacher</li><li>• The excellent links with the parish church of St Luke's</li><li>• The Christian values and ethos which underpins all school life</li></ul>	
<b>Focus for development</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take forward and embed plans to develop places of reflection both inside and outside the school</li><li>• Further develop the programme of worship owned by the pupils to include services already identified such as the patronal festival and Education Sunday</li></ul>	

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

Thurnby St Luke's provides a nurturing and inclusive learning environment which clearly lives out its vision and mission where every child really does matter. Unashamedly, its Christian values shine forth and its Anglican links are clearly visible. Prayer permeates the school and policies embody Christian values within a safe and secure environment where pupils are known and older ones care for younger ones. Pupils speak of the great respect found in school and comment how the teachers are always kind and of the many 'friends who don't bully.' The parent body speaks of a welcoming place where hopes and aspirations are high. Bright religious education displays further enhance the school's strong Christian ethos. Pupils are very accepting of other faiths and all beliefs are valued. They enjoy learning about each other's faith traditions. One Muslim pupil felt very affirmed when her mother recently taught pupils about Islamic dress. Currently the school council and eco warriors are thinking of a place in the grounds for a quiet area. They enjoy reflecting under the willow domes. The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme helps them grow in self esteem. Money for charity is collected in the 'pink pig' where fund raising and giving is born out of service and gratitude. A good example is the Gambian link established through the parish church. Parents value the strong moral Christian principles, Christian values which are lived out as well as real positive messages that pervade the school embodied in the strong sense of community. Indeed, one parent commented that the links between St Luke's and the school are seamless. Others travel out of catchment as for them the spiritual ethos is very high. All pupils receive a copy of St Luke's gospel when they move on to their secondary schools, thus making a close link with the dedication of their parish church. Parents describe the school as 'a loving, giving, caring school' and, 'this is the one, clearly inspiring in every direction', whilst another agreed that St Luke's was 'on the verge of something special.'

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

Collective worship which is clearly at the heart of this school, permeates school life and practice. Pupils believe that singing makes them feel calm. Governors listen to the pupils as an essential part of their evaluation of worship. Pupil's reflections on worship are taken to governors' meetings and acted upon so pupils can see their views are taken seriously, for example, following their request, pupils stand for worship more often. Pupils like to be active in worship and enjoy snuffing out the candle to signify worship has ended, writing and saying their own prayers as well as taking part in drama and singing. Learners' attitudes are very positive and they are able to make the link between worship and real life situations. They know that the teaching of Jesus exhorts everyone to 'love their enemies and forgive people, not ignore or intimidate them'. They understand the importance of forgiveness and the gospel message of giving people a second chance. The main key Christian festivals are celebrated at St Luke's church, whose incumbent is a regular and welcome visitor to the school. Governors are open to new ways of involving the pupils more in worship as well as celebrating major Christian festivals in the church year such as the patronal festival of St Luke and Education Sunday.

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

The headteacher, supported by the governors and senior leadership team, inspires a strong Christian vision for the whole school community. Her vision is "to honour God and pursue excellence in all things." Her spiritual leadership is a model supported by virtually all staff, governors, pupils and parents. They all work hard to ensure the development of each child to their fullest potential, equipping them with skills for life. The school's leaders listen to the children within an open environment, regularly feeding back to governors and putting ideas into practice in the right way for the school to move forward. This has certainly been true in worship. Mechanisms are effective and foundation governors make a difference through their involvement, and in their monitoring and evaluative role. Policies are rooted in Christian values which underpin the principles and practices of the Anglican foundation of the school. There is an excellent partnership with St Luke's Church where the church and school are seen working closely together. A good example of this is a school choir singing at the recent Mother's Union service held in the parish church next door. St Luke's Church is seen as an extension of the school and the headteacher is regularly invited to speak at special services. There are good links too with the diocese. All are working together to uphold the school's Christian vision and its Anglican foundation.