



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

Diocese of Leicester

Leicestershire Local Authority

Thrussington CE Aided Primary School

Hoby Road
Thrussington
Leicestershire
LE7 4TH

Inspection Date: 11th & 12th January 2010

Section 48 Inspector: Mr David Dunmore (No: 308)

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

School name and address:	Thrussington CE Aided Primary School Hoby Road Thrussington Leicestershire LE7 4TH
Diocese:	Leicester
Local authority:	Leicestershire
Dates of inspection:	Monday 11 th & 12 th January 2010
Date of last inspection:	March 30 th and April 16 th & 17 th 2007
School's unique reference no:	120164
Headteacher:	Mrs. Elizabeth Moore
Inspector's name (and no):	Mr. David Dunmore (308)

School context

Thrussington is a very small primary school, serving a largely rural area, with 56 pupils on roll. Most pupils live in the village, although an increasing number are from further afield. Almost all of the children are from White British backgrounds. The proportion of children with special educational needs is below the national average. The school has recently changed its status from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Thrussington CE Aided Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding

The school provides a strong Christian ethos which values and supports each individual child. Excellent leadership, teaching and relationships ensure the highest possible standards in each pupil's personal development and academic achievement. The strong sense of school community is enriched by close links with the Church and wider community.

Established strengths

- Excellent leadership and management by the headteacher.
- Strong Christian values that underpin every aspect of school life.
- Outstanding teaching which values and supports each individual child.
- A strong team spirit which includes parents, the Church and the community.

Focus for development

- Promote and celebrate in the school prospectus the school's clear Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character.
- Develop an effective programme for the formal monitoring and evaluation of collective worship and religious education by foundation governors.

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

A clear vision and a commitment to high standards have enabled the headteacher and her staff to build a successful school providing a very good education within a Christian context, Christian values of love, care, respect and consideration for others are evident in the very positive and supportive relationships between staff and pupils and in many aspects of the work of the school. Teachers know each child and they are able to plan work which meets their needs extremely well. A cross and a candle on display in the school's small entrance area, together with examples of pupils work on creation and accounts of a visit to church, affirm that this is a Christian school. The school's Christian foundation is strongly supported by governors and the incumbent. Pupils speak very highly of their school, particularly the fun lessons with exciting things to do and of 'nice teachers who give you lots of praise'. Behaviour is excellent. New pupils are made very welcome and older pupils help the younger ones. The school has a very effective praise and award system, supported by a weekly achievement assembly and a daily 'wow' table at lunchtimes

which value good work and positive attitudes. Children with special educational needs are very well supported by experienced staff, enabling them to make outstanding progress. Pupils value coming together in prayer at the beginning of each day, at lunch time and at the end of the school day. An area for quiet reflection within the school offers children an opportunity for contemplation, a time to write a prayer or just to listen to a Bible story. Members of the school council speak proudly of `sharing ideas` and contributing to school improvement, for example; improved storage for bikes and an art competition to redecorate the summerhouse. Charity fundraising has also enabled them to help the Marie Curie Cancer Appeal and Leprosy's appeal for money for vaccines and medicines. Parents recognise and value the happy, secure and caring Christian family atmosphere within the school and the strong emphasis on praise promotes confidence and a real love of all the learning opportunities.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship, with enthusiastic pupil participation, has a central place in the life of the school. The headteacher plans a termly programme for acts of worship drawing upon recommended diocesan themes linked to special events and dates in the Christian calendar. Space restraints mean that the whole school meets together for worship at the beginning of each day at one end of a mobile classroom. Excellent planning draws upon biblical and other stories, exemplifying Christian values that are then related to the pupils own lives and experiences. Very good relationships ensure that the children are all fully engaged and thoroughly enjoy collective worship; `all getting together` and `learning about God`. Pupils enter reverently with suitable music. A lighted candle and interactive whiteboard provide an opportunity for quiet thought about the focus for worship. Pupils are guided well by very dedicated staff who are very skilled in engaging pupils thoughtfully with open-ended questions. Appropriate Bible readings and prayers for the children to read, help to reinforce their understanding and enable the worship to have maximum impact. The children listen carefully and their eloquent responses to questions; `the dove of peace is a sign for the spirit of God around us` demonstrate a profound level of understanding of key concepts. Songs to accompany worship are very well matched to the theme, with words displayed prominently to enable children and staff to sing together with real enthusiasm. A time of still, quiet reflection, is followed by saying the Lord's Prayer or a reading from the Bible. The extinguishing of the candle finally draws the worship to a close. A daily record of the detail of each act of worship, with evaluative comments, is used to assist future planning. Popular fortnightly visits for worship by the incumbent and very enjoyable Church services each term, attended by parents, help to further strengthen pupil's spiritual development. Pupils speak enthusiastically about `learning about Bible stories,` `going to church` and their recent visit to a Hindu Temple. The children's spiritual development is outstanding and their moral, social and cultural development is good.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Excellent planning and highly skilful and creative teaching, supported by ICT, enables pupils to make exceptional progress in RE. In the first of two lessons observed, Foundation and KS1 children were all enthusiastically learning the Old Testament story of Joseph and his coat of many colours. Outstanding use of role play, brainstorming and hot-seating helped pupils to collaborate in formulating their own questions to the key characters and then use them to gain a much deeper understanding of the events of the story and its meaning. The older children, in KS2, studying the parable of the Good Samaritan, had made their own movies, acting out a range of modern variations to deepen their understanding of the key messages. Skilful links to Personal, Social and Health Education and the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning enabled pupils to link their learning to personal experiences, for example falling out with brothers or imaginatively exploring similar present day scenarios. Children are fully engaged in tasks relevant to their abilities and understanding, in an exciting and interactive environment. Teaching Assistants work very effectively with children they know well to provide excellent support to aid them in their learning. Further opportunities for cross-curricular links were very successfully employed during a recent whole school visit, with governors and parents, to a Hindu Temple in Leicester. Follow-up activities in the afternoon included sampling Indian food and learning about different aspects of Indian culture. The children spoke very enthusiastically about these experiences and everything they had learned. To support the teaching and learning in RE a very robust monitoring and assessment system is in place, linked to other curriculum areas, which identifies levels of skills and understanding for each individual child.

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

The very strong leadership of the headteacher together with the commitment and dedication of staff and governors ensures that the school's Christian foundation and the values that underpin it pervade all aspects of the school's work. The headteacher and her staff know and value every child very well and work hard to ensure their well being and their ability to achieve high standards and be successful. Excellent work in curriculum development and in the monitoring of teaching and learning outcomes has made an outstanding impact upon raising standards of teaching and pupil achievement. Links with the local church are very strong and worship in school and at church contributes significantly to the impact of collective worship. Governors are very proud of the school's Christian foundation; the school sets an excellent example of Christian living. After a period during which there have been a number of changes on the governing body, governors are beginning to play a more active role in monitoring the work of the school. The need for more focused visits by foundation governors to contribute to monitoring and evaluating collective worship has been identified. Relationships and communication with parents is very good. School staff are very welcoming and approachable and parents feel well-informed and able to contribute to their children's learning and school life. The school is laying a clear Christian foundation for the children and is actively involved in community life which is a source of genuine pleasure to the parents.