



The National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools  
(Carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005)

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# Ullesthorpe Church of England Primary School

Inspection Report

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<b>Address of School:</b>	Ullesthorpe Church of England Primary School Ashby Road Ullesthorpe Leicester LE17 5DN
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	01455 209926
<b>Email Address:</b>	officeadmin2@ullesthorpe.leics.sch.uk
<b>School Category:</b>	Voluntary Controlled
<b>Unique Reference Number:</b>	120169
<b>Type of School:</b>	Primary
<b>Diocese:</b>	Leicester
<b>Local Authority:</b>	Leicestershire
<b>Inspection Date:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2010
<b>Reporting Inspector (and No):</b>	Fiona Parr and Neville Norcross (No: 403)
<b>Appropriate Authority:</b>	The governing body
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	Mr David Cleverdon
<b>Headteacher:</b>	Mrs Lynn Lockton
<b>Pupils on school roll:</b>	103

Ullesthorpe C of E Primary School  
Ashby Road  
Ullesthorpe  
Leicester  
LE17 5DN

**Diocese: Leicester**

Local authority: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010

Date of last inspection: 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2007

School's unique reference number: 120169

Headteacher: Mrs Lynn Lockton

Inspector's name and number: Fiona Parr and Neville Norcross NS403

**School context**

Ullesthorpe Church of England Primary School is a small rural village school with 103 pupils currently on roll. There are four mixed age classes. Almost all pupils are of White British heritage. A few pupils are from the Traveller community who live on the recently established site near the village. The school serves the immediate village catchment and some children travel to the school from the surrounding villages. The headteacher has been at the school for nine years and the present incumbent for three years.

**The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Ullesthorpe Church of England Primary School as a Church of England school are satisfactory**

The school promotes an ethos where children feel safe and are well cared for in a family environment. The school recognises the importance of Christian values and its Christian ethos has progressed since the last inspection. The links with the Diocese and the local church have played an important part in these developments.

**Established strengths**

- The caring and supportive Christian ethos of the school which enables pupils to feel secure and valued
- The strong links with the parents and the local community
- The active and supportive governing body

**Focus for development**

- Develop the school environment so that it reflects and promotes the Christian character of the school
- Develop the school's system for the evaluation of its distinctiveness so that the focus is on the impact on pupils
- Involve all members of the school community in a review of the school's mission and vision so that this fully reflects the Christian character of the school

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

There is a strong sense of belonging amongst the pupils and a high level of respect shown between pupils and staff. The behaviour and attitude of the pupils is good and this, in part, accounts for the rise in their attainment and achievement in recent years. The children are rightly proud of their support of local and national charities which have been chosen by themselves. They say that any conflicts or complaints are dealt with quickly and compassionately. The character of the school is defined by Christian values which are implicit in the daily life of the school. However, not all members of the school community are able to articulate the link between the strengths of the school and its Christian character. Parents feel

very welcome in the school and appreciate the way in which the school caters and cares for each individual child. Parents value the open door policy of the school office. They say the teachers are “very approachable”. They attend various assemblies throughout the year and some key celebrations in the church. They understand from their children that singing has a high priority and that the children enjoy their visits to the church. The parents see these as “magical” experiences for their children. The well-organised school environment is bright with good attractive displays. Since the last inspection the school has introduced more explicit signs which reflect its foundation. However, the school’s Christian character is not celebrated in a way which will make a significant impact on the pupils` spiritual development and the prayer life of the school. The school has recently developed a new worship trail. This is an admirable project which has great potential. Some pupils are able to talk about the worship trail with a degree of understanding but at this early stage it is not having a full impact on their thinking.

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

The planning of collective worship is thorough and follows the suggested themes available through the Diocese. These are well recorded and stored. The school keeps an effective record of worship and this includes some evaluative comments from staff who lead them. The pupils are involved in some informal evaluation of the worship although this is not being used to reflect on current practice. The pupils say that they would like to be more actively involved in planning worship. They recognise the way in which Year 6 pupils are involved in the planning of their leavers` service and would like this to be introduced as a regular feature. They enjoy the Open the Book presentations by the local church members whereby they act out Bible stories. They enjoy visits to the local church and the group which visited the Cathedral and three other places of worship for “other” faith groups spoke excitedly about their experiences as did the staff that accompanied them. Behaviour is very good in the collective worship but the children are largely passive learners and not actively involved. This limits the impact of worship on their spiritual development. The pupils are generally positive about collective worship and speak of enjoying the stories and songs. The school has introduced new technology into the worship and this is effective in holding their interest.

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

The school leadership including the governors recognise the importance of developing the Christian character of the school. They have responded to the issues highlighted in the last report but recognise that there is further work to be done and that the “Christian outlook” should go further. The headteacher recognises the way in which the development of the school’s Christian character in recent years has fostered a sense of community. The school is rightly pleased that the parents are increasingly recognising the strengths of the school as a church school. Some parents now choose this school for these reasons. Governors play an active part in the life of the school. They have an effective role in monitoring the school improvement plan and the review of some policies. However the school vision and mission statements have not been reviewed for some years and this has restricted the effectiveness with which the school expresses its distinctive Christian character. Church school issues are not given prominence in the school’s development planning and this has restricted progress in developing its Christian character. The support provided by the local church and diocese has had a positive impact on any progress made since the last inspection.