



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School.

Lincoln Road
Welton
Lincoln
LN2 3JB

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Dates of inspection: 14th March 2014

Date of last inspection: 27th March 2009 (prior to becoming an academy)

School's unique reference number: 136415

Headteacher: Andrew Stones

Inspectors' names and numbers: Carol Acheson

Quality assurance: Lyn Field NS 151

School context

William Farr is a large, high achieving, rural comprehensive school. It became an academy in January 2011. There are 1500 pupils on role, including 280 in years 12 and 13. The headteacher and several members of the senior leadership team have been appointed since the last inspection. The school population is mainly White British. The percentage of students eligible for free school meals and the percentage with special education needs are below national averages. There is no selection by ability for places at William Farr.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of William Farr as a Church of England school are outstanding.

- High standards of academic achievement and exemplary behaviour are firmly embedded in explicit Christian values, creating an atmosphere in which all pupils are able to flourish.
- Respectful, positive relationships guarantee all members of the community access to high quality pastoral care and support.
- The work of the school Chaplain has a significant impact in developing the Christian vision and distinctiveness of the school.
- The vision, passion and determination of all leaders to ensure every that young person knows they are valued and can achieve their potential.

Areas to improve

- Make Christian values explicit in written documentation and the school website, in order to communicate more clearly to the wider community and prospective parents.

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

Christian values permeate every part of school life at William Farr. They are understood and embraced by all members of the school community. Pupils and staff speak of an inclusive, caring environment where everyone is treated with equal respect and all know they are valued. Pupils remain with the same form and year tutors throughout their time at school and excellent, cohesive relationships exist across the community. Pupils and staff speak with conviction of the difference values make to their lives, and the impact of the Christian character of their school exemplified in pastoral care, justice, compassion and forgiveness. Christian values are the foundation for exceptionally high standards of academic achievement. Pupils know they are expected to do their best and will be helped to overcome any difficulties. Achievement is significantly above national averages and there are high expectations for all groups, including the most vulnerable. The school documentation and website do not make these values explicit as references to the 'foundation values of the school', may not be fully understood by all. Both collective worship and religious education (RE) make a significant contribution to spiritual development. In RE very good use is made of times of reflection and debate. A Year 13 student commented that 'You develop compassion and understanding and it makes you grow as a person'. Members of staff give excellent support, especially to young people who have difficulties with learning or who have personal problems. Compassion for the needs of others leads to students supporting many local and international charities. Links between William Farr school and international partner schools provide unique and exciting opportunities for pupils to experience and understand Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith. The school chaplain is a very important member of the community and both students and staff particularly value the support she gives in the worship and wider life of the school. The school and local community greatly respect the special link with the Royal Air Force in their school chapel. The heritage of the school is commemorated daily as pupils turn pages in the book of remembrance in the chapel. There are regular Christian services of thanksgiving for the past and present. Pupils are overwhelmingly enthusiastic about their school. They find it an exciting place to live and learn, describing it as 'a fantastic and amazing school'.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.

Collective worship is highly valued by staff and students at William Farr and central to all school life. The clear Christian vision and meticulous planning of the school Chaplain, the planning team and school leaders, leads to memorable and enjoyable experiences of worship. Pupils have many opportunities to reflect on and respond to contemporary issues. Prayer topics reflect both world and local events and pupils are given space to consider their responses. Sixth form students talk about how themes introduced in collective worship are often the topic of lively moral and spiritual debate in the tutor led 'Thought for the Day'. A pattern of prayer runs through wider school life. Morning prayer is said daily in the chapel; during the weekly Eucharist prayers are said for the school and the wider world and special events mark the seasons of the church year, like the Lent Prayer Group. This is very important to school leaders who speak of providing different experiences of Christian worship, enabling pupils to feel comfortable in the church, in school collective worship and in the various pupil led Christian groups. There is a strong focus in whole school collective worship on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit which pupils understand and can explain. Issues highlighted in collective worship often inspire charitable events to help others. Pupils talk about wanting to 'make a difference' and planning events which are supported by the whole school community. Church seasons, Anglican and other religious festivals are celebrated, members of the school community are welcomed to the weekly Eucharist and the life and teaching of Jesus feature regularly. Pupils readily volunteer to plan and lead worship. They participate in collective worship and church services in school and in the local community. Founders Day and Easter services in the village church have recently been expanded to include services for Year 7. Pupils start the school year with a symbolic walk through the village to the church and a special service of welcome. Pupils, staff and governors value collective worship as a really important time in the life of the school and feedback shows that it is relevant and engaging. Evaluation and feedback is gathered from all groups in the school community to monitor engagement

and impact. All responses are considered carefully and used by the collective worship team to inform planning and development.

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

School leaders passionately articulate a Christian vision which encompasses all young people feeling valued as individuals and achieving as individuals because every young person is of infinite value as a child of God. This vision is deeply embedded in the Christian foundation of the school and the whole community is committed to the highest standards for all learners. Academic results for young people are consistently and significantly above local and national averages. A flexible and individualized curriculum ensures that all young people have opportunities to shine and are supported to achieve their very best. The pastoral care and well-being of the whole community is of the highest priority for the governing body and has led to the appointments of additional members of the school leadership team, and a permanent school chaplain. Leaders have highly effective planning and evaluation strategies in place which are used to inform future developments. Ensuring that the whole curriculum is informed by a distinctively Christian vision and supporting other local schools, are key priorities with leaders and governors. There are well established, effective links with the local church community. The school and the church actively support each other. The appointment of the school chaplain has had a tremendous impact on care for the school and the wider community. Evidence gathered from parents and carers on a regular basis show that vast majority are in full support of the school and satisfied that it provides a caring environment for their children. RE holds an important and central place in the school curriculum: furthermore it also meets The National Society's criteria for standards of religious education in church schools. Long established international links with partner schools benefit pupils and staff and widen knowledge and understanding of different faith communities. Staff development is strategically planned: it informs and contributes significantly to Christian leadership in the school community, other local schools and the diocese. Issues from the last report, prior to becoming an academy, have all been addressed.

SIAMS report March 2014 William Farr Church of England Comprehensive Lincoln LN2 3JB