



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### Christ Church Church of England Primary School

Memorial Road  
Hanham Bristol  
BS15 3LA

**Previous SIAMS grade: Good**

**Diocese: Bristol**

Local authority: South Gloucestershire

Dates of inspection: 26 November 2014

Date of last inspection: 5 November 2009

School's unique reference number: 109163

Headteacher: Ian Hutton

Inspector's name and number: Muriel Griffiths NS268

#### School context

Christ Church Church of England Primary school is a larger than average school with 328 children on roll. The proportion of pupils supported by the pupil premium is below average. The proportion of disabled pupils and those with special educational needs supported through school action, school action plus or with a statement of special educational needs is average. The majority of pupils are from White British backgrounds. The school is currently undergoing work to provide four new classrooms as the school is becoming more popular.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Christ Church Church of England Primary School as a Church of England school are good

- Explicit Christian values make a significant contribution to the learning and personal development of pupils and to relationships in the school.
- An ethos in which children are valued as individuals allows their talents to have every opportunity to flourish.
- Collective worship and religious education make a strong impact on the promotion of the school's Christian ethos.

#### Areas to improve

- Provide greater opportunities for children to be regularly involved in planning and delivery of acts of worship so that they develop a greater understanding and ownership of worship.
- Use ideas from the recent School Vision Day to review the school's Christian vision, ensuring that it drives whole school strategic planning; monitor and evaluate its impact in a systematic way, engaging the whole school community.
- Ensure that there is shared understanding of children's spiritual development so that opportunities to develop the skills of reflection and enquiry are consistently used.

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

The school has made good progress since the previous inspection in developing a set of Christian values that give a greater focus to how the Christian ethos is lived out in the daily life of the school. Christian values are now recognised, celebrated and permeate the everyday life of the school. They are covered in depth through collective worship and as an integral part of the curriculum. They are supported by the example set by all adults in school. As a result, relationships at all levels are excellent. The school's Christian values make a strong impact on provision for inclusion; individuals in vulnerable groups are closely tracked and early intervention strategies are put into place. The school's Christian character, through its values, for example, honesty, forgiveness, care and compassion, contributes well to academic attainment and children achieve well. Children clearly enjoy coming to school and this is reflected in good attendance. Christ Church Church of England Primary School is a caring, happy Christian community where children feel valued and safe. Children talk enthusiastically about the many activities that are provided for them and they are proud of their school. They listen respectfully to one another in an atmosphere of openness and trust, as is evident during discussion in religious education (RE) lessons. Parents appreciate the family feeling in the school and how older children show great responsibility for those younger than themselves. The whole school environment is beginning to make a good contribution to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. All classrooms have quiet reflection areas which include children's prayers and 'Worship and Wonder Books' and a recently developed reflective area in the school grounds where children are developing the ability to express their thoughts and reflections. Spiritual experiences are identified in the curriculum and the school is keen to develop more opportunities for children to explore spirituality. Religious Education lessons make a positive contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development as well as to their understanding of the cultural diversity of Christianity and major world faiths. Children have recently looked at and discussed Christianity round the world during a special week dedicated to this area of learning. This has also helped their awareness of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith. The profile of RE has been raised considerably since the previous inspection, when it was an area for development. The contribution that RE makes to the overall Christian ethos of the school is effective and is reflected in many ways conversations with children, displays and the overall Christian ethos.

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

Collective worship is highly valued and central to the life of the school. This is because it is highly effective in promoting the school's Christian values. Children recognise its importance and talk about what it means to them. They explain that it is a 'peaceful time to pray and think about things that are special in our lives'. Children understand that lighting the candle signifies that Jesus is the 'light of the world'. They know that important elements of daily worship include prayer, singing, quiet times of reflection and listening to Bible stories. They are confident in explaining how different Bible stories are used to explain the school's values and how they can apply them to their daily lives. For example, after listening to the Bible story of Ruth, children were reminded of the importance of caring for the elderly, which made a good link with the current values of 'care and compassion'. Older children have the opportunity to put this into practice when they go to a local church to sing to elderly people from the local neighbourhood. At the beginning of a term children have opportunities to consider what they understand by the chosen value and later in the term they re-evaluate the progress made in their understanding of the value. The recently formed SWAT (School Worship and Assembly Team) team are enthusiastic about their role and keen to explain how they recently led worship with a modern day version of 'The Good Samaritan' which helped children's understanding of the parable told by Jesus to demonstrate the meaning of care and compassion. Children are beginning to enjoy being actively involved in planning worship, which was an area for development in the previous inspection, but would value more opportunities to be included in planning and leading. The worship co-ordinator has already identified the

need to address this. Parents appreciate opportunities to join their children for worship in church for the celebration of Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Children understand the value of personal prayer and reflection and contribute confidently to prayer during worship. They write their own prayers and know that prayer can be to say 'thank you or 'sorry' to God. An important element of worship is the school prayer. Because it was written by children, there is a sense of ownership and children respond positively when it is said. The children are beginning to have a growing understanding of the concept of the Trinity. The worship co-ordinator ensures that worship has a high priority in the daily life of the school and children are encouraged to discuss and reflect on the day's collective worship, which helps the school to discover its impact on them. Children, staff and governors have regular opportunities to reflect and evaluate collective worship in order for the school to discover its impact on the school community.

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

The commitment of the headteacher, together with the governing body and support of staff, means that the vision and core Christian values of Christ Church school are clearly articulated and put into practice throughout the school. Parents are appreciative of the positive impact of the values on children's learning and personal development. They feel that the strong emphasis on the values helps children's self-esteem. They are pleased to have opportunities to be involved at home with these values when they can complete a certificate if their child has demonstrated one of the school's Christian values. The school has recently held a vision day when staff and governors explored the school's values in order to gain a clearer understanding of their meaning and impact. Leaders have identified the need for greater involvement of children and their parents in reinvigorating this vision. This will enable a clearer understanding of how the school's distinctive Christian character underpins and informs strategic school development planning. The governing body is already effectively involved in monitoring and evaluation of the school as a Church of England school and is keen to promote the school's Christian distinctiveness further. The school promotes its Christian character and careful self-evaluation enables them to identify areas for development accurately. The school is keen to improve the links with the local church and the recent addition of a local lay preacher to the governing body and more involvement with local clergy are already making a positive contribution to evaluation as a Church of England school. Links with the Diocese have improved since the previous inspection and members of staff have attended in-service training, which has improved and developed the school as one with a Church foundation. Arrangements for RE and collective worship meet statutory requirements. The RE co-ordinator leads the subject very effectively ensuring that it plays an important role in the life of the school. The supportive relationships between all members of the school community are clearly rooted in Christian values, providing a good example of a school which is both distinctive and effective.

SIAMS report November 2014 Christ Church CE VC Primary School Hanham Bristol BS15 3LA