



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Weston All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Broadmoor Lane, Weston, Bath, BA1 4JR

Previous SIAS grade: Outstanding

Current SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Bath and Wells

Local authority: Bath and North East Somerset

Date of inspection: 3 June 2015

Date of last inspection: 28 June 2010

School's unique reference number: 109227

Headteacher: Dr Anne Bull

Inspector's name and number: Daphne Spitzer NS No 37

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Weston All Saints VC Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The high quality of children's spiritual awareness promoted by the school's distinctive character has a strong impact on their academic achievement and personal development
- Distinctive Christian values make a significant impact on the children's learning and the whole life of the school
- The visionary leadership of the headteacher, staff team, clergy and governors drives the continuous improvement of the school's distinctive Christian character, thereby maximising its impact

Areas to improve

- Ensure that existing development areas planned to improve the school's distinctive Christian character are embedded within the school's strategic school improvement plan, in order to share the school's work more widely
- Increase children's knowledge of the Trinity so that they have a deeper understanding of the Christian faith

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

Weston All Saints Primary School is an inclusive, warm and friendly Christian community. Values, underpinned by Christian teaching, are integral to the whole life of the school. These values, one per class, are integral to the whole life and learning of the class throughout the year. They are shared so that all eighteen fully belong to the school community. In this way, they are having a significant impact on the children's high academic achievement as well as their personal and spiritual development. The school meets the needs of children exceptionally well.

This is because each child is accepted as special and unique with individual talents given by God. A wealth of opportunities and experiences, including spiritual and cultural are provided to develop these talents, resulting in self-confident children who greatly enjoy school and hugely value their learning. The excellent way that spiritual development contributes to the curriculum is seen in the comment of a child who had thought about what it would be like to have strangers living in your house. This insightful reflection was the result of listening to a visitor, who as a child, had lived in occupied France. Relationships at all levels, particularly amongst the children are outstanding. Children say this is because they notice others using values such as trust and forgiveness and relate these to the parable of the Prodigal Son. A wide range of opportunities have enabled children to develop a good understanding of people from diverse communities living within this country and overseas. For instance, the rich religious education curriculum includes visits to local places of worship and is enhanced by visitors and parents from within the school community, who provide first hand experiences by sharing their faith. Good links with schools in Uganda and Brazil, promote a good understanding of Christianity as a global faith. Children enjoy religious education (RE) and recognise its role in promoting the school's Christian values. They appreciate the calm, peaceful setting of classrooms in which they can reflect; they recognise reflection as both part of RE and enhancing the learning of all subjects.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is distinctively Christian and of central importance in daily life at Weston All Saints Primary School. This is because worship promotes distinctive Christian values very effectively. This was noted when year 5 led worship on their own values of endurance and justice, closely linking the values with stories from the Bible and demonstrating their relevance to life in and outside school. Children are engaged, participate well and lead worship regularly in a variety of ways. Anglican practice is developed well by worship. Examples are the simple liturgy used within class worship, worship frequently led by children in the parish church and their attendance at services in Bath Abbey. A candle is lit which is understood to represent Jesus as the light of the world. Although children are familiar with the Trinity from the words of the blessing given by the vicar in church, as yet they have not been introduced to a greater understanding of this Christian belief. The explicit nature of Christian teaching is evident in the very effective use made of Bibles in Key Stage 2 to follow readings in worship led by the vicar. Children's reflections on the Bible readings are one of the many ways the school promotes spiritual development very well; and noted during the memorable and inspiring act of worship led by Year 5 with their uplifting and moving singing. Words of prayers composed by children provide an example of the good quality of spiritual awareness; for example, 'Jesus on the cross endured pain, but his love endures forever'. Prayers are well embedded as part of the school day, either said from a class book of their own prayers, spoken spontaneously or as a reflective thought. Worship is led very well by the headteacher, planning the themes together with the vicar who coordinates the weekly contributions of the clergy team. She organises a varied programme of leaders with their different styles, as well as differing settings and size of groups, which all enhance the relevance of worship. Worship is monitored and evaluated by the whole school community and is effective.

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

The headteacher's inspirational leadership has ensured that the school's Christian vision has grown from strength to strength with an increasingly significant impact on the lives of the whole school community. School leaders fully understand how the school's Christian values, promoted since the last inspection guide all actions taken in the daily life of the school. Governors have thoroughly addressed the issues raised since the last inspection demonstrating their commitment to the school's distinctive Christian character. Parents are very supportive of the school as a church school and contribute fully to the self-evaluation process as do children, governors and staff. They know that issues raised are swiftly addressed. The school is

continually striving to improve, so ensures that the self-evaluation process is very effective. For instance, this is evident in the way children are gaining a deeper understanding of all the school's values. However points agreed for developing the school's distinctive Christian character are often raised and acted on informally. This means that a more formal structured system of evaluating its performance as a church school and ensuring that issues become part of the school's strategic improvement plan is missing. Staff undertake training opportunities at the diocese which benefit the school as a whole. Religious education is exceptionally well led, demonstrating the prominent position of the subject within the school curriculum. The partnership with parents, church and the local community is strong. This is reflected in the highly valued mutual support offered by the community and school to each other, following a recent tragic accident. Partnerships with other communities enrich the life of the school. For instance, this is noted in the work of foreign trainee students and other visitors from the institutes of higher education with whom the school enjoys close links.

SIAMS report June 2015, Weston All Saints VC Primary School, Weston, Bath, BA1 4JR