



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Bishops Lydeard Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Mount Street
Bishops Lydeard
Taunton
TA4 3AN

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Satisfactory

Diocese: Bath and Wells

Local authority: Somerset

Date of inspection: 21 September 2015

Date of last inspection: 14 September 2010

School's unique reference number: 123791

Headteacher: Mary Clothier

Inspector's name and number: David Shears (423)

School context

Bishops Lydeard CE Primary is an average-sized primary school. The large majority of pupils come from a White British background. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs is below the national average as is the proportion of pupils who are in receipt of pupil premium funding. The school is currently judged by Ofsted to have serious weaknesses. The school is due to become a sponsored academy in January 2016.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bishops Lydeard Primary as a Church of England school are satisfactory

- Both the headteacher and the leader of RE and collective worship have a clear vision for the school's Christian distinctiveness and this is impacting positively on the behaviour and attitudes of pupils.
- There is an increasing range of opportunities for pupils to engage in spiritual development which is helping them to reflect well.
- Good links have been built with parents, the local community, the local church and the diocese and this is having a positive impact on the school's sense of inclusivity and support.

Areas to improve

- In consultation with the whole school community, develop a shared Christian vision and set of aims and core values so that all know and understand what it means to be a church school.
- Ensure that the effectiveness of RE and collective worship is consistently monitored by school leaders and foundation governors and findings used to inform the school's development plan.
- Plan collective worship in which pupils understand how the school's values relate to the Christian faith and put these into action, having a positive impact on the school community and beyond.

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

There are positive relationships between staff and pupils which mean that Bishops Lydeard Primary is a place where all are welcomed and valued. Both pupils and parents comment about the friendly nature of the school. There are opportunities for pupils to work together and support each other and this helps to support their social development well. The school is keen to support others in need and pupils raise money for a variety of charities, including Red Nose day and Save the Children. This supports the moral development of pupils well. There are an increasingly range of opportunities for pupils to reflect together, exploring their spiritual development. For example, pupils enjoy 'Wonder Wednesdays' where they are encouraged to reflect on a chosen item in a box. Parents report that pupils come home enthusing about these occasions. Pupils' cultural development needs further development. While pupils are aware of other cultures and faiths their understanding of these is limited and the school has already identified the need to develop pupils' understanding of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith. Pupils are aware of the values that are explored in collective worship and can talk about these with some understanding and in particular how it relates to their behaviour and attitudes. Consequently both of these have improved. However, they do not yet relate these easily to the Christian faith. Parents are aware of a different set of values which are written on the website and at the top of newsletters, which can lead to some confusion about which the key values are. RE promotes pupils' spiritual development well by ensuring that pupils have time to reflect but its contribution to pupils' cultural development is more limited. The school is working hard to strengthen pupils' academic achievement and this is improving. However, more still needs to be done to improve the quality of teaching to ensure that pupils consistently make good progress.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

Pupils engage well with collective worship and listen carefully. They say that they enjoy meeting as a school and like singing together. They have the opportunity to reflect on what they have been learning in collective worship and to pray together and they recognise these as important activities in a church school. Pupils also have the opportunity to pray at other times of the school day. The values that are explored through collective worship, such as friendship have resulted in an improvement in pupils' behaviour and attitudes. Stories from the Bible are sometimes used to illustrate the values being explored. However, while they have a basic knowledge of these stories, they do not always understand the significance behind them for Christians. Moreover, although pupils are able to use liturgy when lighting a candle during worship, they do not have a clear understanding of what this means, particularly with regard to the Holy Spirit. Planning for collective worship gives a clear structure but is not detailed enough to ensure that values being taught are then explored further and practised during the rest of the week. The collective worship leader introduces the value at the beginning of the term and then leads a final act of worship summarising what has been learnt, enabling pupils to know what they are going to be exploring and reflecting on their learning over the term. Pupils themselves are beginning to plan and lead worship, although this is still at an early stage of development. The school has already identified the need to have a more strategic approach to the monitoring of collective worship to enable the collective worship leader to celebrate what is going well and to identify areas for further improvement. The school makes use of the local church to celebrate some of the major Christian festivals.

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

The headteacher is working well with the staff to improve pupils' academic achievement. Strategies to strengthen teaching are identified within a clear plan for development that is rigorously monitored and evaluated, resulting in clear improvement. Both the headteacher and

the leader for RE and collective worship also have a clear vision for the school as a distinctively Christian community. As a result they have introduced a number of different initiatives that have raised the profile of the Christian character of the school, particularly in the areas of spiritual development, including prayer and the development of collective worship. This is having a positive impact in developing the school as a thoughtful community of people who seek to include everyone, treating each person as an individual. The behaviour of pupils is good overall and their attitudes more positive. However, this overall vision has not yet been fully discussed and agreed with all stakeholders to ensure that all have a shared understanding of the development of the school's Christian distinctiveness and consequently this is not clearly promoted. For example none of the current aims of the school relate to the school's Christian nature. Although the school reports well on how the school is improving in newsletters to parents in terms of pupils' academic achievement, areas relating to the church school aspects are not included. While there is some monitoring of the impact of RE, the quality of collective worship and the school's Christian distinctiveness by school staff and foundation governors this is often informal and not always carefully focused and consequently the school's self-evaluation of the school is not sharp enough. The areas for development from the previous SIAS inspection report have been partially completed. The school has sought to develop stronger relationships with parents and the local church and community. This is having a good impact on the school's inclusive nature where all are welcomed and supported. For example links with Green Days has meant that both they and the school have benefitted from mutual care and friendship. The church is now more involved in the school and a group of parishioners are due to start leading acts of worship through 'Open the book' which is designed to give pupils a greater understanding of Bible stories and how the stories can be applied to their own lives. The school promotes events at local churches, such as 'Messy Church' and pupils respond well to these. The governing body have been successful in recruiting new staff that are supportive of the school's Christian distinctiveness, further strengthening the capacity of the school for further improvement. The school meets the statutory requirements for religious education and collective worship.

SIAMS report September 2015 Bishops Lydeard CE (VC) Primary School, Taunton TA4 3AN