



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Bishop King Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Kingsway
Lincoln
LN5 8EU

Previous SIAS Grade: Outstanding

Current Inspection Grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: 27 June 2016

Date of last inspection: 28 June, 1 July 2011

School's unique reference number: 120630

Headteacher: Kate Rouse

Inspector's name and number: John Gibbs 818

School context

The school is larger than average with 368 pupils on roll. The number of pupils in receipt of pupil premium and the percentage of ethnic minority children is significantly above the national average. Two out of three pupils speak a language other than English as their first language which is much greater than average. The proportion of children who are disabled or have special educational needs is also above average. The school has a close relationship with local churches and the cathedral.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bishop King Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The Christian ethos of this school is well established and explicit. Christian values are understood, shared, and consistently lived out by the whole school community.
- Pupils' behaviour is exceptional and the school's Christian ethos has a major impact on their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.
- A nurturing Christian environment incorporates high quality teaching and learning experiences for all pupils.

Areas to improve

- Develop the use of the peace garden in the school grounds in order to increase the opportunities for children's personal reflection.
- Ensure pupils are involved in the planning and evaluation of collective worship in order to give them greater ownership of it.

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

This is an exceptionally happy and caring school where explicit Christian values of justice, peace, respect, generosity, truth and forgiveness are deeply embedded and integral to every aspect of school life. These values are lived out by the pupils who relate them with stories in the Bible

and the life of Jesus in a knowledgeable and impressive manner and lived out through the school motto, 'Dream Big, Love God, Live Well.' Pupils readily describe the way that Christian values underpin their achievements and also their lives on a daily basis. For example, one pupil gave an excellent illustration of how they used the school value of justice to solve an argument between two friends. Relationships between all members of the school community are exceptional. Staff and children respect and value each other enormously. As one pupil said, 'We always have someone to talk to and we can trust our teachers.' Parents speak very positively of the school's distinctively Christian ethos and its inclusivity. One parent said, 'The teaching and support staff here are incredible. I will be upset when my daughter leaves next month. I like the fact the school is so inclusive and teaches the children values for life.' Pupils are well supported both academically and personally within a very positive environment underpinned by high quality teaching and learning experiences. The above average level of attendance and lack of exclusions are the result of positive encouragement and high behaviour expectations as evidenced by discussions with pupils and staff. The school makes effective use of its environment to celebrate its Christian foundation and to nurture the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils. Examples include classroom and hall displays of the school's Christian values. A peace garden has been developed in the school grounds but current building work at the school prevents its use. Visits to different places of worship in Lincoln, Nottingham and Leicester as well as visitors from a variety of religious backgrounds help to broaden the pupils' understanding of diversity. Religious education (RE) makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC development by supporting their knowledge of Christianity and the other major world religions. Pupils are motivated to support and fundraise for a wide range of charities at a local, national and worldwide level. One child said, 'It is really important to raise money for charity and we have lots of fun doing this.'

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Inspirational Christian worship is a fundamental part of the school day. It is a wonderful occasion when the whole school community joins together in celebration and prayer. Worship incorporate the extensive use of Bible stories that deliver clear themes related to the school's values. Pupils readily describe the impact of these worship themes with perception and positivity. They are enthusiastic about and enjoy the wide variety of collective worship experiences provided by the school. They express their excitement at their involvement in helping with acts of worship and welcome being even more involved with planning and evaluation experiences. There are a wide range of worship styles which are led by various contributors including staff, local clergy and outside speakers. Pupils show a highly developed understanding of the concept of the Trinity with insightful comments on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. One pupil said, 'The Holy Spirit is like the wind, you can hear it but you can't see it.' There is an exceptionally strong relationship between the school and the local churches. This is welcomed by parents who value the opportunity to attend acts of worship on a regular basis. Events in the church year enhance the worship programme enabling excellent provision for developing understanding of Anglican tradition and practice. Pupils' attitude to prayer is respectful and very positive. They know a variety of prayers and make regular contributions to a prayer tree as well as contributing regularly in acts of worship. Reflection is an important part of their prayer time and together with opportunities throughout the school day has helped develop pupils' understanding of personal prayer as a key part of their own spiritual journey. The school is keen to explore how the use of the peace garden can widen opportunities for pupils to reflect at a personal level.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

School leaders place RE very highly amongst their curricular priorities and the subject receives an appropriate amount of time within the curriculum and a generous budget allocation. Policy documentation is clear and effective and the result of effective strategic subject leadership. The subject leader shows an exceptionally high level of subject expertise and knowledge of current developments in RE. There is a strong vision for further improvement in the subject. Resource

provision is excellent. The subject programme maintains an appropriate balance between Christianity and other world faiths and lesson planning is well documented. The subject underpins the school's Christian values effectively and makes a significant contribution to the children's SMSC development. Children report that they 'really enjoy' RE. Several said it was their favourite subject, 'It's fantastic to learn about Jesus and God and other religions', said one pupil. As a result the level of engagement in the best lessons is very high and the impact of the subject is exceptional. The use of visitors to talk about Christianity and other faiths enhances the teaching and learning. Additionally the well-established programme of visits to places of worship, both Christian and other faiths, enables the Agreed Syllabus to be brought to life. Planning clearly indicates how assessment is used in order to target further learning and the subject leader supports the staff very well in developing their understanding of this aspect. Overall, pupils make very good progress and achievement is at least in line with national expectations and in many cases above. Parents commented about their children's enthusiasm for the subject and the positive impact RE teaching had upon them. High quality displays of RE work in classrooms and around the school showcase achievements and celebrate and enhance the teaching of the subject. The Pupils display a very high knowledge of many of the key aspects of Christianity and the Bible as well as other major world faiths.

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

Collectively the headteacher, senior leaders and governors have a highly developed vision for the school which has been shared extensively with other partners and is clearly expressed in documentation. The leadership team and governors are extremely effective in the continual development of the school's Christian ethos which has continued to thrive since the previous inspection. The headteacher and senior teachers, supported by a number of other members of staff and foundation governors model active Christian leadership in all their work and this has a positive impact on the well-being of the whole school community. Parents and pupils feel that their views are sought and valued by school leaders. Team spirit in the school is high and members of staff are extremely positive about relationships within the school. The school's Christian vision impacts positively on the standards of behaviour and achievement in the school. Governors are supportive of an extensive programme for continuing professional development (CPD) and are helping to prepare staff as future leaders of church schools in an effective manner. The quality of the partnership with the parish and diocese is very high. The school takes every opportunity it can to underpin and develop this relationship resulting in a high awareness of local, national and global issues amongst staff and pupils. Self-evaluation is realistic and robust so that the school's approach to improving standards focuses effectively on the needs of all pupils. Religious education and collective worship meet statutory requirements and are exceptionally well led and managed leading to outstanding practice in both areas. Parents see the school's Christian values as a key reason for choosing the school. They support the way that links between the school and local churches help pupils to develop their understanding of Christian worship and practice. The areas for development identified in the last inspection have been met in full.

SIAMS Report June 2016 Bishop King Church of England Primary School, Lincoln LN5 8EU