



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Lilliput Church of England VC Infant School.

Lilliput Road,
Poole
BH14 8JX

Diocese: Salisbury

Local authority: Dorset

Dates of inspection: 10th March 2014

Date of last inspection: 22nd June 2009

School's unique reference number: 113783

Headteacher: Christine Chambers

Inspector's name and number: Lorraine Pugh

School context

Lilliput Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant school is a growing school with a current pupil roll of 299. The large majority of the children live in the school's catchment area and are from a white British heritage. Since the last inspection the school has had a new Headteacher who was the previous Deputy Head. The school has also changed from being a First school with four year groups to an Infant school with three year groups. Pupil attainment is above the national average. The number of pupils with special educational needs is below the national average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Lilliput Infant School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

- The school's strong emphasis on explicit Christian Values significantly impact on the daily behaviour and individual development of pupils.
- There are clear links between the school's Christian values, collective worship and religious education with each having Jesus and the teachings of the Bible as their focus.
- The commitment and vision of the senior leadership, governors and clergy ensure the school continually reviews and develops its Christian vision.
- The secure partnerships between the school, parents and clergy ensure the school's outstanding effectiveness as a distinctively Christian school.

Areas to improve

- Ensure the school's Christian distinctiveness is reflected in the school's documentation, prospectus and website.
- Develop the role of personal prayer and reflection so pupils understand the part they play in their own spiritual journey.
- School leaders and governors to formalise their monitoring role in order to evaluate the impact of the school's work as a distinctively Christian school.

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

The school's success is rooted in clear Christian values that are expressed to the children in language they understand; for example, where the Christian value of 'Justice' has been changed to 'Generosity'. The pupils refer to this value when talking about their charity work. This is often child initiated such as the recent toy sale for a local hospice. Pupils are able to articulate how their Christian values support their relationships and behaviour. Pupil disagreements are speedily resolved with the emphasis being on forgiveness and reconciliation. Parents say that these values are also evident in behaviour at home. Pastoral care and high academic achievement is central in the school's approach to the Christian ethos. Religious Education (RE) teaching is highly effective in challenging the children's thinking with questions such as, 'Why was Jesus a good leader?' Pupils answer thoughtfully, confidently referring to Christian teaching and Bible stories. Religious festivals are celebrated through the Christian year and pupils, as a result of their active participation, are able to explain their meaning. Pupils know that they are part of a multi-faith world and are able to talk about their learning of other faiths. Pupils are excited and confident with their learning and keen to share their ideas with others in the class. The school's nurturing ethos ensures that, when needed, pupils and their families are sensitively supported both emotionally and academically. Pupils are able to talk about the way they use the school's reflective spaces and how this helps them spiritually and emotionally. Adults in the school know the pupils really well. This nurturing and compassionate atmosphere provides a happy, caring and calm learning environment with mutual respect clearly evident throughout the whole school community.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship has a high profile in the life of the school with pupils able to talk confidently about its impact on their daily lives. Parents say that children ask questions about the worship themes, wanting to explore them further. This has resulted in pupils wanting to find the worship stories in their Bibles at home. Worship is well planned around the 'Values for Life' scheme. The organisation and impact of worship is evaluated with outcomes informing future planning and provision. Information Technology, stimulating resources and regular visitors ensure that pupils gain a rich experience that captures their attention and interest. The Vicar plays an active role in organising and leading worship. Pupil feedback confirms their enjoyment of worship as a special part of the school day. There is a strong emphasis around the work of Jesus and his central position within Christianity. Pupils refer confidently to his teaching. Anglican traditions are used with pupils understanding their meaning. They know the meaning of the changing colours of the altar cloths and why candles are lit. Pupils understand the Trinity at a level appropriate to their age because the adults leading worship make sure that language is simple and within their understanding. They are able to explain that God created the world, Jesus is God's son who died for us and the Holy Spirit is with us always. Pupils enjoy being participators in worship, being involved in dramatization, reading prayers and organising the hymn computer. Personal prayer and reflection are used in worship as well as other places in the school such as the 'Thinking Path'. Although pupils are able to explain what prayer means to them there are insufficient opportunities within school for personal prayer.

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

The Headteacher is passionate that the school places its Christian ethos at the heart of its vision. She ensures that the school's distinctively Christian character has a high profile to all members of the school community. Strong links with Salisbury Diocese ensure that staff and governors benefit from personal, professional and spiritual development. This has further developed their understanding of what it means to be a Christian school. Monitoring and evaluation contribute to the school's effectiveness as a Church school, however, procedures are not sufficiently formalised to make the maximum impact. The school community values and

benefits from its close partnership with the local church with staff viewing the church as 'another classroom'. This enriches the high quality RE and worship for the pupils. Leaders ensure that RE and collective worship impact on the Christian development of the pupils and link with the core Christian values of the school. Parents say the school gives their children opportunities to encounter faith in a way that promotes understanding and engagement. The vicar is a regular visitor and very active member of the governing body. There is a very strong partnership between the church and school. This enhances pupils' sense of belonging to the church and their understanding of Christian belief. As a result, members of the school community are drawn into the church family.

Local and international links established by the school contribute successfully to the pupil understanding of other communities. Pupils talk about these community links and how they impact on their lives. The school's Christian mission is evidenced by the Headteacher's leadership support for another local school. Governors and parents, despite her being away from Lilliput for significant periods of time, support this work. Following the last inspection, the school leadership has been successful in maintaining its outstanding church school distinctiveness during a period of significant re-organisation.

SIAMS report March 2014 Lilliput CE VC Infant School, Poole. BH14 8JX