



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

The Minster Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Emwell Street
Warminster
Wiltshire
BA12 8JA

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Salisbury

Local authority: Wiltshire

Date of inspection: 17th June 2015

Date of last inspection: 22nd February 2010

School's unique reference number: 126368

Headteacher: Lisa Tudor

Inspector's name and number: Mark Stratta 737

School context

The Minster Church of England Primary School is a smaller than average-sized school of 213 pupils. It is a popular, over-subscribed school that is currently undergoing significant building works. Most children are of White British heritage. 5% of children have English as an additional language. The current Headteacher and a number of staff have been appointed since the previous inspection. The school received a Pupil Premium Award in December 2014. This was recognition of its successful work as one of the most improved schools in the country in terms of the attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils since 2011.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of The Trinity CE VC Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The outstanding Christian ethos of the school in which all, both children and adults, are nurtured and highly valued.
- High quality acts of worship that greatly contributes to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Excellent mutually beneficial links with the local church and community.
- Children play a leading role in acts of worship and charity work.

Areas to improve

- Incorporate quiet areas within the new building project, both inside and outdoors, thus providing more opportunities for personal prayer and reflection that will further enhance pupils' spiritual development.
- Ensure that the Christian values which underpin the life of the school are more explicit within policies in order to strengthen the shared understanding of the theological basis that motivates practice.

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

The Christian ethos has a profoundly positive impact upon on all areas of the school's daily life. Christian values, which are reviewed annually by staff, governors, children and parents, lay at the heart of the school. Children have a good understanding of the individual values and effectively articulate how they impact upon their lives and affect behaviour choices. They are encouraged to recognise and celebrate these values in one another. Consequently, behaviour is exemplary. Children are confident, feel valued and special and enjoy coming to school. Leaders are aware that at present the theological basis underpinning the values is not always as explicit as it could be in the school's policy documents. The values of Respect, Belonging and Friendship are manifested in the high level of care and inclusivity that older children show for younger ones. This ensures that everyone feels a genuine sense of belonging to the school community and supports them to become responsible citizens. As a result relationships are excellent and all children make very good progress both academically and in the broader sense. The local authority recently requested the use pupil work books as exemplar training materials to use with teachers in other schools – testimony to the high academic standards. Parents appreciate the open door policy of the school which means that any concerns are dealt with quickly, sensitively and effectively. The 'Young Heads', elected head boy and girl together with their deputies, instigated a specific time for reflection at the end of each day because, as the children stated, "It's good to be quiet and think about things." Time for reflection therefore takes a high priority in school and pupils also make excellent use of reflection diaries. One parent commented on the impact of the prayer tree in the hall which really helped her child to come to terms with a particularly difficult time. One youngster greeted her mother after school with, "Sorry I'm late mummy – I was reflecting!" Religious Education makes a tangible significant contribution to the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and this was clearly demonstrated during a lesson in which Year 3 pupils were gaining a good knowledge and understanding about the river Ganges and its importance to Hindus.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Distinctively Christian acts of worship are central to the life of the school and make an outstanding impact on the spiritual development of children and adults. During worship links are made between the values, the teachings of Jesus, behaviour and real life experiences. These are well planned, inclusive and varied whilst holding firm to the key attributes of worship that reflect Anglican practice. A cross, candle and bible are prominent on the worship table and simple liturgy begins and ends each act of worship. Music forms an important part as each week a new song, which has a firm theological basis, is learnt. Children respectfully listen to the music being played whilst they enter and leave the hall. Led by the headteacher they sing a beautiful and moving arrangement of the Lord's Prayer. There is a time for prayer and reflection. In the worship observed on 'Determination' the children were actively involved in telling the story of Blind Bartimaeus and in empathising with the characters in the story. Each school value is effectively underpinned by a bible verse for example, later in the day one child volunteered the verse from assembly – 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.' (2 Tim 4:7). Following the act of worship one little girl, whilst running on the playground, was overheard to say, "I'm being really determined!" Class displays and reflection areas are visual aids to further support the values and the verses so that children can refer to them. Clergy lead worship in school every week and 'fit in to what the school does'. They bring their expertise to imaginatively teach about the Trinity and other topics so that children are able to gaining an understanding in these areas. Clergy and governors regularly monitor and evaluate acts of worship and the views of children are sought. Pupils and the Young Heads plan and lead worship once a month supported by staff. The Young Heads also meet regularly with the headteacher to discuss and evaluate worship. Children feel confident to suggest ideas, for example, Y5 pupils wished to fund raise for an Ebola Appeal and led an assembly on the subject. Weekly 'Celebration' assemblies are very well supported by parents who value the opportunity

to attend. Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and Leavers' services are held in the Minister church and the school takes part in the mayor's civic service.

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

The committed leadership of the head teacher, supported by a strong governing body, has strengthened the school's distinctive Christian character since the last inspection. Regular monitoring and evaluation enables governors to have a thorough understanding of the school's development needs as a distinctive and effective as a church school. Priorities from the last inspection have largely been addressed although building works have temporarily frustrated plans to enhance opportunities for quiet reflection spaces outside. The school has identified that this is an area for improvement and has plans to move this forward. Parent questionnaires are overwhelmingly positive about the way the school's Christian values make a difference to their children's all round development. They value the fact that the school is very much a part of the community and fosters a genuine sense of belonging. Parents feel very well informed through newsletters, the text messaging service and informal communication and appreciate the way their views are sought on different aspects of school life. The School Council make a positive difference to the school by giving constructive suggestions to improve various aspects of school life, fund raising activities and a range of other initiatives. Tangible demonstrations of the school's values in action are evident in the way the choir visits the hospital and nursing homes and also in the range of fund raising events and charities that are supported. These include, MacMillan coffee morning, Children in Need, British Legion, Christmas box appeal and others. Year 6 pupils also held an enterprise day which raised money for the Williams Syndrome charity. Excellent links with the Minster Church are mutually supportive and beneficial so that partnership genuinely 'works both ways'. The RE coordinator has a strong commitment to the contribution that RE can make to the lives of the children and ensures that the subject has a high profile in the school. The Minster Primary CE VC Primary School has an excellent reputation and all members of the community regard it as a special place.

SIAMS report June 2015 The Minster Church of England Primary School, Emwell Street, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 8JA