



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Kinnerley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Road
Kinnerley
Oswestry
Shropshire
SY10 8DF

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Diocese: Lichfield

Local authority: Shropshire

Dates of inspection: 11 February 2016

Date of last inspection: 8 December 2010

School's unique reference number: 123481

Headteacher: Marilyn Hunt

Inspector's name and number: Huw D Bishop 344

School context

This is a small rural school in the heart of the Shropshire countryside. There are 85 full-time pupils on roll. The number of pupils with special educational needs is very low, as are those pupils known to be eligible for free school meals. Most pupils currently in school are of White British Heritage. A number of potential pupils attend local private schools or are home-schooled. However, some families in school do experience considerable rural deprivation. When last inspected by Ofsted in September 2013, it was judged to be a good school. A new headteacher has been in post since January 2015.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Kinnerley CE Primary School as a Church of England school are good

- The school proclaims clear Christian values that guide every aspect of school life. Pupils currently at the school achieve well in their learning and personal development.
- Relationships in school are very strong and there is a welcoming Christian ethos. Happy children thrive within this caring Christian community.
- The quality of worship is good and all children and staff are actively involved. Pupils enjoy the opportunities they are given to worship in the parish church.
- The effective leadership of the headteacher is supported well by foundation governors and staff.

Areas to improve

- Support pupils' appreciation of the diversity of the wider national and global society, by increasing opportunities for them to have direct experience of the richness of different cultures and traditions, so that their work in religious education and other areas of the curriculum is enriched.
- Using the strong connections with the parish church, continue the extended opportunities for collective worship in school and in church, to develop pupils' personal spirituality, whatever their starting points.
- Ensure that all parents fully understand and appreciate the broad nature of Christian distinctiveness across all areas of school life and its application in nurturing pupils' personal development and well-being.

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

Christian values are at the heart of the school and are rooted in Christian belief and practice. They are openly expressed in conversations and this is reinforced for the school community through visible reminders around the building. These values impact well on current pupils' progress through effective teaching and learning. Strong relationships, good behaviour and opportunities for personal development all contribute to improving standards as well as pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. However, the latter needs more direct experience to strengthen the work already being done. Pupils have very positive attitudes to learning in the classroom and they demonstrate high levels of interest, engagement and enthusiasm. Pupils enjoy their lessons and conversations with them show that they believe they are taught well and know where to go for help when they need it. The school's mission statement and ethos underpins all this work and pupils thrive because of it. Attendance is very strong, which indicates the high level of enjoyment they get from being in school. Behaviour throughout the school is outstanding and the quality of relationships between pupils and staff is excellent. This, alongside the emphasis on caring for others, makes a strong contribution to pupil's personal and spiritual development. All pupils feel valued, safe and special. Pupils are proud of their school and speak confidently about why it is special to them. Pupils in Year 6 were strong in their praise of how well they had been prepared to move on to the next stage of learning. Pupils have good levels of self-esteem, respect and understanding as the school is a harmonious Christian community where pupils and adults get on with and care for one another. The school's Christian ethos ensures that pupils learn to respect and value the uniqueness of each individual and this also helps them to develop strategies to support others who may need it. Religious education is planned and delivered carefully and this contributes well to pupils' personal development and well-being. Pupils are given responsibility for developing their citizenship and charitable awareness by organising a range of activities to support local and national charities. One innovative decision was made to donate to a class fund instead of buying Christmas presents for staff. Instead, funds raised were used to purchase a bamboo bike for a midwife in Africa, books for a mobile library and funding towards the cost of mine clearance in Cambodia. The school environment makes a strong contribution to the spiritual development of all learners through displays and artefacts for worship. Displays in the entrance area, throughout the school environment and a cross woven by pupils from recycled materials outside the main entrance mean that visitors can be in no doubt that this is a Church of England school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship has a high profile in school. It occupies a vital part of the school day and acts of worship are planned carefully and delivered respectfully by pupils. Their effectiveness is evaluated by them as well as by staff. The headteacher coordinates worship and this is monitored carefully by foundation governors. Worship reflects the school's distinctive Christian character and has a positive impact on the spiritual and moral development of pupils. The headteacher leads by example, modelling Christian values and ensuring that worship plays an important role in the lives of all in school. Worship is also led by teachers and the vicar of the parish church. The strong links between the school and the church contributes well to a strong sense of community in school. The resources used are modern and relevant and help pupils to focus well on their own spiritual awareness. The celebration of festivals in the Christian calendar reflects local Anglican practice and pupils go regularly to the parish church for worship. They also have an understanding of the Church's liturgical year because they can talk about the seasons and particular biblical events that are remembered and the significance of liturgical colours. Pupils in Key Stage 2 experience Eucharistic worship in the parish church which is used purposefully to reinforce their sense of belonging to each other, as well as belonging to the wider church community. The school also has valuable links with a local United Reformed Church, and opportunities for partnership from a new ministry about to begin there, are eagerly awaited. Pupils value worship highly and talk with enthusiasm about its themes and purposes. The themes for worship reflect the 'Values for Life' programme which supports the school's core values and these are presented well and with imagination. Pupils are engaged, show respect and enjoy opportunities they are given to lead in worship. Daily worship includes opportunities to sing, pray, reflect and listen to Bible stories. Pupils write their own prayers and these are visible on the prayer tree in the main entrance area. The main hall, where worship takes place is surrounded by reminders that the school is a Christian community, with the cross and open Bible helping pupils to focus on the purpose of worship. Worship begins with an affirmation of the Holy Trinity and the lighting of candles to symbolise God's presence, and pupils spoken to during the inspection talked confidently of its meaning and theological significance. They know and use the Lord's Prayer in worship, and each class prays a special grace before lunch.

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

The school's Christian vision, based securely upon Christian values, is clearly stated in the school's mission statement. This combines instilling in pupils, a love and enthusiasm for learning, weaved carefully within a broad Christian education firmly rooted in the Anglican tradition. This is led well by the headteacher, contributes significantly to the school's character, ethos and success and is supported strongly by staff and foundation governors. Parents recognise the importance of this vision and the part it plays in helping their children to grow as young people. Recent changes which have impacted on long standing routines and expectations in school have been met positively by most parents, who have recognised the impact that these have on children's learning and development. This includes the promotion of a clearer distinctive Christian vision and practice for the school. A reorganisation of governor committees has highlighted the priority given to Christian distinctiveness through the establishment of an ethos, standards and curriculum committee. The school's motto "Dream, Believe, Aspire, Achieve" is certainly played out in the planning and carrying out of the school's day to day activities and aspirations for all pupils. The vicar of the parish church is fully involved in school life and chairs the governing body. The school contributes to the wider life of the church and diocese through participation in Open Door at Shrewsbury Abbey. The school's own evaluation of its strengths and areas for development as a Church of England school is an accurate reflection of where it is now and the capacity for building further on this is very strong. Also highlighted are its aspirations for the future, but this could be enriched further by giving the whole school community, and particularly parents, an opportunity to evaluate its significance as a Church of

England school. Opportunities to nurture younger staff towards leadership and management responsibilities within a church school setting have been identified by the headteacher and foundation governors are committed to this professional development.

SIAMS report February 2016 Kinnerley CE (VC) Primary School, Kinnerley, SY10 8DF