

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Sherrier Church of England Primary School

Bitteswell Road, Lutterworth, Leics. LE17 4EX

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese	Leicester
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Local authority	Leicestershire
Date of inspection	16 November 2016
Date of last inspection	19 January 2012
Type of school and unique reference number	Voluntary Controlled Primary, 120188
Headteacher	Lyndsey Beckett
Inspector's name and number	Sheila Grice (165)

School context

Sherrier is a large primary school near the centre of Lutterworth, within easy walking distance of St Mary's Church. The school serves a mixed socio economic community. The majority of pupils are White British, with a small, but increasing number of children speaking English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for pupil premium is increasing but is still less than the national average. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities is also lower than the national average. The headteacher has been in post for ten years.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Sherrier as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Christian values are deeply embedded in all aspects of school life, resulting in learners having a very good understanding of how these values impact on their own achievement and behaviour.
- Strong leadership (shown by headteacher, leadership team, religious education (RE) & collective worship leaders and governors) rooted in Christian values, ensures that every child is valued and respected as a unique individual in this large primary school.
- Very strong links between the school and St Mary's Church result in a worshipping community where the love of God is shared widely.
- Pupil voice is extremely strong and results in children taking an active part in collective worship and school improvement.

Areas to improve

- Further develop children's awareness and understanding of different religions so that they respect diverse religions and cultures.
- Develop children's understanding of the Trinity so that they can recognise and speak confidently about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

The Christian ethos at this school underpins all aspects of school life and staff and governors are united in their understanding of the importance of the school's distinctively Christian character. The wealth of creative displays and artefacts bear testimony to the importance placed by staff on the school's Christian values. This is summed up in the words of one of the displays in the hall, 'Christian Values shine (Jesus shine) on us. They light our path to help us on our flight through school and in our careers.' Christian values including respect, compassion and trust are at the forefront of school life and as a result children are polite, respectful, well-mannered and extremely caring. They display excellent behaviour and attitudes towards learning. The use of children as ambassadors for the Christian values enable all children and staff to actively promote and recognise values in action. The values are rooted in the Bible, consequently children can relate them to both Jesus and their own lives, 'Jesus showed compassion in the way he treated people and he wants us to do the same.' It is the loving, nurturing, Christian environment at Sherrier that supports, enables and inspires children to develop as well rounded, confident individuals. Through the school's focus on Philosophy for Children (P4C) pupils are encouraged to think deeply, asking searching questions which enable them to justify their opinions and beliefs. Children, staff, governors and parents are united when they speak of being part of one, 'big family where everyone is cared for and treated equally'. Pupil voice is extremely strong in this school and the Ethos Group take great pride in their work to promote the school's distinctive Christian character. The children's involvement in redesigning the playground was instrumental in providing different zones which can be used at playtimes. The Quiet Quadrant provides a, 'calm place to be where I can just sit and think about things'. Standards on entry into Foundation Stage are broadly average, but by the time pupils leave Sherrier they achieve well above national expectations in all subjects. Staff go above and beyond to ensure the needs of the whole child are met, whether academic, emotional, spiritual or social. Children's care for those in the world in greatest need is clearly demonstrated through the fundraising for charities which are chosen by children following a vote. Parents speak very positively about the benefits of their children attending a church school and they value the 'warmth and care shown by all staff and children' which encourages their children to look out for each other and help in any way they can. RE teaching contributes significantly to children's social, moral and spiritual understanding and the use of art and poetry enables children to express their own ideas creatively. However, the school has rightly identified children's cultural understanding as an area requiring development.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

High quality collective worship, which enriches the lives of both adults and children, is clearly at the heart of this school community. Collective worship is well planned and it is led by staff, local clergy from St Mary's Church and the Open the Book team, so enabling children to have rich, varied experiences. Children do not yet have the opportunity to experience prayer or reflection time outdoors. There is a clear structure within all assemblies which enables children to become fully engaged with the worship. During the welcome children focus on the candle. Staff then use the 'window/mirror/door' approach with the window representing the learning, the mirror a time for reflection and the door an opportunity for children to think about what they will take away from the assembly. The use of prayers based on TSP (thanks, sorry, please) is also included in each act of worship and children confidently lead the prayer time, showing they have a very good understanding of the nature and purpose of prayer. The use of modern, religious songs, which are also sung at St Mary's Church, is valued by children and adults alike and children speak very enthusiastically about the songs they sing so beautifully in collective worship. Thanks to guidance from the assistant minister at St Mary's Church, children have written a couple of their own songs and it was a joy to hear them sing one written by Year 4 about compassion. As well as a daily act of corporate worship each class ends the school day with a short time of reflection and prayer. This provides a wonderful oasis of peace before the children leave school during which children say their own insightful prayers based on TSP. There is a strong focus on biblical teaching and consequently children are developing a good understanding of Bible stories and they can speak confidently of the importance of Jesus, 'His name means Saviour because he came to save the world and make it a better place.' Children are enthralled during assemblies led by the Open the Book team and staff follow up these assemblies well, linking the story to Christian values and challenging children to relate the story to their own lives. There are frequent opportunities for children to plan and lead worship and the Ethos group are currently supporting other children to lead prayers in worship or prepare video clips which can be shown to the whole school. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian and children have a good understanding of the Christian calendar and they are developing a good understanding of Anglican tradition and worship, due to very strong links with St Mary's Church. Children can speak about the Trinity and they are developing an understanding of God as Father and Jesus as his Son. However, this is underdeveloped and children have very limited understanding of the Holy Spirit. The enthusiastic leader for collective worship has been instrumental in ensuring that collective worship is continually improving by frequent evaluations involving staff, children and parents.

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

All leaders articulate a distinctively Christian vision for the school, which is underpinned by the desire to foster spiritual, cultural, moral and social awareness within a Christian ethos, one of the school's aims. Christian care for vulnerable pupils is clearly evident through the deployment of staff and the energy invested by staff in ensuring the individual needs of all children are met. Staff have collected a wealth of evidence to support their self-evaluation which is highly effective in ensuring the school's Christian distinctiveness is embedded throughout school. The decision to block time for RE, by having a Bible Focus week, Values week and Lord's Prayer week, provided excellent opportunities for children to discuss and think more deeply about religion and God. Children benefit from these high-quality learning experiences which impact significantly on their knowledge and understanding of Christianity as well as their spiritual development. As one governor stated, 'This school is not a religious school, but a spiritual school.' Clergy and other adults from St Mary's Church provide exceptional support to the school through involvement in collective worship, RE lessons and in promoting and enabling effective strong links with the church. The involvement of the Ethos Committee, led by the collective worship leader, is instrumental in securing greater pupil involvement in collective worship and ensuring the Christian ethos remains at the heart of all aspects of school life. The collective worship/social, moral, spiritual and cultural coordinator provides 'tremendous support for colleagues' which has raised staff confidence significantly. The foundation governors encourage and challenge the school very effectively, working extremely closely with staff. They provide insightful evaluations of the school's provision, following up on visits to ensure improvements are made. Parents speak very positively about the benefits of their children attending a church school, as evidenced by frequent monitoring and discussion. They value the 'pastoral care which is so strong and the way forgiveness is integral when sorting out disagreements'. Good use is made of diocesan training to ensure staff are kept fully up to date and equipped to guide and lead staff forward. All the issues from the previous inspection have been successfully addressed and the school is well placed to continue to flourish as a church school.

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