



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Littleham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Littledown Close
Exmouth
Devon
EX8 2QY

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Exeter

Local authority: Devon

Date of inspection: 4 May 2016

Date of last inspection: 17 May 2011

School's unique reference number: 113370

Executive Headteacher: Duncan Nelmes

Inspector's name and number: Patricia Morris 626

School context

Littleham is a smaller than average sized primary school with 153 children on roll. It has grown from 86 on roll at the last inspection and numbers continue to increase. The majority of children are of white British heritage. The number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is above the national average. The proportion of children supported by pupil premium is well above the national average. In May 2015 the school joined with another primary church school to become part of Pebblebed Heath Federation.

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

- The dedication and commitment of the executive headteacher, assisted by the senior management team and governors, ensures continual development of the Christian character of the school.
- Christian values are deeply embedded in the life of the school and are reflected in children's excellent attitudes to learning and behaviour.
- The quality of relationships and pastoral care ensures a nurturing and caring Christian environment for every child.
- The partnership with the church in providing inspirational collective worship contributes to rich experiences that engage and challenge children.

Areas to improve

- Ensure children take more ownership of worship by extending opportunities for them to plan and lead it on a more regular basis.
- Provide a more diverse range of opportunities to develop children's understanding of Christianity as a world faith.

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

A set of six distinctive core values are clearly expressed and deeply embedded in the life of the school. Children identify values and the impact on their daily lives and achievements. They explain the wording on their school badge of 'firm foundations' as 'meaning our core values which keep us strong'. Children clarify how they thought carefully about the values Jesus needed and asked themselves the question, 'What values would keep us strong and help us in times of difficulty?' This is reflected in the enthusiastic way they talk about the recently designed banners illustrating each value with a story from the Bible. They articulate and clearly demonstrate how the current value of service is acted out such as in the way they open doors for each other and how the older children look after the younger ones. Relationships within the school community are excellent with the pastoral care being particularly strong. All members of the school community acknowledge the significant impact values make to the Christian distinctiveness of the school. Many Christian symbols and prominent interactive displays contribute to the importance placed on the Christian ethos. For example, each class has individual examples of how they interpret values but they all use a gold background to emphasise their importance. The Christian character and values of the school successfully contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. Spiritual experiences are highly valued and celebrated across the curriculum. They are effectively promoted through reflection areas that children use to think about others or any problems. The Mirrors, Windows, Doors scheme enables children to express their spirituality within an accessible framework and to acknowledge similarities with Bible stories. They speak confidently about how this helps them to empathise and understand other people's situations. The recently redesigned outdoor environment incorporates a quiet area, growing area and sensory garden as well as a forest school. Children are excited by the spiritual opportunities this offers them. For example, they talk about how they sit around the fire pit and have discussions or sometimes pray. A display in a younger class affirms the awe and wonder of children in their reactions when they see chicks hatching out of their eggs. Religious education (RE) contributes significantly to children's spiritual and cultural development and to the Christian character of the school. This is reflected in challenging questions that draw on children's prior knowledge and the way they are encouraged to reflect on situations through statements such as 'I wonder why, if, where, what and how?' There is a developing understanding of Christianity as a world faith and children show respect for differences within other faith communities.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is thoroughly engaging and at the heart of the school community. The dynamic family feel of worship reflects how highly it is valued and the significant contribution it makes to the Christian character of the school. Children recognise it as being 'a special time to talk to God' and 'to reflect, praise and pray'. The fervent singing, accompanied by actions, is joyful and enthusiastic. Children have a good understanding of artefacts on a focus table in worship. They describe the significance of pebbles depicting their values and how it reminds them of the story of David and Goliath. Children confidently explain how, 'the Bible represents an instruction book from God, the cross shows us that Jesus died for us and the candle represents the Holy Spirit, making up the Trinity of three in one'. Worship is extremely well supported through Bible stories and opportunities for prayer and reflection are central. Prayer plays an important part in school life and underpins all decisions. Children have a very good comprehension of how it can be used to support them. Each class has given careful thought to their prayer area with imaginative, interactive ideas that reflect their individuality. These include prayer ribbons and personal prayers on prayer trees. Prayer buddies encourage children to read and share prayers in worship and are valued by younger age groups. Worship is rigorously planned in partnership with the church to include Christian values and festivals. Different leaders apply the same pattern of worship so children benefit from continuity. Children plan and deliver

worship for special times in the church year and for class worship. They are eager to increase this responsibility on a more regular basis. Extremely strong links with the church and contributions from the church community make a significant impact on worship such as the Open the Book team and the numerous extra curricular clubs they offer in the school. For example, Chatterbox, a Bible club, Halfways and Praise and Play for Pre school. Many members of the school community regularly attend a monthly Sunday service held in the school hall that enhances the united family feel between the school and the church. The extended use of Mirrors, Windows, Doors, as an opportunity for self-reflection in worship successfully contributes to children's spiritual development. Monitoring and evaluation of worship take place systematically with leaders regularly observing and supporting each other by suggesting ways to further engage children and enrich their experiences of worship. Children are also involved in assessing worship through a comment book and child conferencing.

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

Leaders consistently articulate a clear Christian vision for the school that is rooted in Christian values. The executive headteacher and governors are committed to the continuous development of the school as a church school and have ensured the school's Christian character has been strengthened since the last inspection. The establishment of a committed ethos group, who ask challenging questions and start every meeting with a learning walk, has successfully contributed to the high profile of the school's Christian distinctiveness and its impact on the school community. This is evidenced in comprehensive minutes that ensure leaders are confident in understanding the strengths of the school and areas for further development. The distinctive Christian vision contributes to children's excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning as well as their spiritual development. The partnership with the local church is invaluable. The involvement of the team vicar and youth leader makes an outstanding contribution to all aspects of the school community. The RE leader has been in place since September and has introduced an enquiry based culture in lessons. Monitoring is successfully demonstrated through a Key Stage 1 portfolio which is now being extended across Key Stage 2. Areas for improvement in RE have been identified and are starting to be addressed. Fund raising, including global, national and local charities such as Mary's Meal for children in Africa and the cancer charity Clic Sargeant, inspires children to appreciate how fortunate they are in comparison to others. Parents say they are well informed by newsletters and have the opportunity to share their views through regular questionnaires. They appreciate the high visibility of leaders and say 'the welcoming environment ensures the whole family feel part of the school' and that 'the school is a listening school'. Parents are confident that children are happy and encouraged to 'have a thirst for learning'. They particularly acknowledge the very good preparation for children's next stage of learning and affirm the support for children who find change difficult. They endorse that 'the firm foundation of Christian values ensure children are equipped for future life and leave Littleham school with a sense of their own self identity'. The school meets the statutory requirements for RE and collective worship.

SIAMS report May 2016 Littleham CE VC Primary School Exmouth Devon EX8 2QY