



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Hawkesbury Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hawkesbury Upton

Badminton

South Gloucestershire GL9 1AU

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Diocese: Gloucester

Local authority: South Gloucestershire

Date of inspection: November 18th 2014

Date of last inspection: September 29th 2009

School's unique reference number: 109161

Headteacher: Louise Lewis

Inspector's name and number: Muriel Griffiths NS268

School context

Hawkesbury Church of England Primary school is a small school with 98 children on roll. The proportion of pupils supported by the pupil premium is well below average. The proportion of disabled pupils and those with special educational needs supported through school action, school action plus or with a statement of special educational needs is below average. The vast majority of pupils are from white British backgrounds. The headteacher is a consultant head who is currently also supporting another school.

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

- The inspirational leadership of the headteacher who articulates and promotes a vision for the school rooted in Christian values with the result that these values permeate the whole life of the school.
- The leadership ensures that the Christian ethos is continually evolving and that pupils are placed at the heart of these developments.
- Children understand and articulate the Christian values and the clear impact that they have on their daily lives and their achievements.
- The church takes its responsibility for the school very seriously and plays an active role in its development.

Areas to improve

- Develop a quiet area in the outside environment that can be used by the children for quiet reflection which will support their spiritual development.

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

Hawkesbury Church of England Primary school is a welcoming, friendly Christian community. The school's core Christian values are fully embedded and permeate all aspects of the daily life of the school. These values are covered in depth through collective worship, as an integral part of the curriculum and reinforced by the example set by adults in school. Christian values have a strong impact on children's behaviour, academic achievement and personal development. As a result, achievement is well above national averages. The school's Christian values also make a strong impact on its inclusion provision; the progress and well-being of children considered to be vulnerable are closely tracked and early intervention strategies are put in place with the result that all children make good progress. The school's positive Christian ethos with this strong emphasis on inclusion ensures that every child feels valued and special. As a result, children enjoy coming to school and this is reflected in excellent attendance. All members of the school community can identify the effect of the values on their daily lives and achievements and one child said 'perseverance is important when you're doing your work, because if you don't try, you won't learn'. They explain that they are Christian values because they originate from teaching from the Bible. The school's strong Christian ethos, collective worship and religious education (RE) are also effective in supporting children's excellent spiritual, social and moral development. The values promote a strong sense of belonging within the school community and the way that they underpin school life enhances children's excellent understanding of spirituality. There are many occasions through the curriculum in which children are invited to pause, reflect and express their thoughts and ideas. They listen respectfully to one another in an atmosphere of openness and trust, demonstrating the respect for one another that is strongly promoted by the school's Christian values. Teaching and learning in RE results in attractive displays around the school providing opportunities for reflection but the children would also benefit from a reflective outdoor area, set aside for quiet, peaceful thought.. Children are helped to have an understanding that Christianity is a multi-cultural world faith through its links and support for a children's home in the Philippines. They know that their involvement means that they are helping people who are suffering and understand that their contributions demonstrate God's love and care. In recent years the school has increased its links with a number of schools in other countries and has also made a link with a semi-urban school. This was an area for development in the previous inspection. There have been opportunities for children to visit schools in six European countries and also a more local school. Children have mixed with diverse communities to praise God together and have developed a better understanding of their place in the world. As a result, they feel more confident to ask questions of people of other faiths and communities.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is explicitly Christian and central to the daily life at Hawkesbury School. This is because it is highly effective in promoting the school's Christian values. It is important to the school community because it brings everyone together to worship God and demonstrate their care for each other as a school family. The headteacher is responsible for co-ordinating worship and is totally committed to the prominent role that it plays in promoting the school's Christian ethos. Older children are invited to volunteer to be Worship Warriors. Worship Warriors plan and prepare their own acts of worship and are responsible for preparing the 'setting' for collective worship, planning hymns and they deliver key aspects of worship. Planning records show thorough progression with a strong focus on the school's chosen Christian values. Great attention is paid to following the Anglican pattern of worship and pupils can identify the different elements of worship, such as responses, quiet reflection and praying and understand their importance. This makes a significant impression on children's spiritual development. Pupils gain an impressive knowledge of key Christian beliefs from the richness of what they experience in worship and they are able to apply these through the school's values to their lives. They are beginning to have an understanding of the Trinity through the use of the symbolic Christian family stone, a bowl which has three candles on top,

lit for prayer and reflection, to remind the children of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Children understand the value of personal prayer and reflection and contribute confidently to prayer during worship. They write their own prayers and know that prayers might be saying 'thank you', 'sorry' or 'please'. This is integrated in the lunchtime prayers that children have written and are displayed on each table for children to use as a prayer before lunch. The themes for worship focus on the school's Christian values, Bible stories and special days in the Church calendar. As a result of feedback and evaluation by the whole school community, themes are always relevant and fresh. The Rector is a regular visitor to lead worship as are members of other local churches. Children also enjoy regular visits from the Open the Book team and say that they enjoy these visits because they give them opportunities to be actively involved in worship and help them to get to know local Christians. The parish church is now used for worship at least once each term to celebrate Christian festivals and other events such as Remembrance Sunday with the whole school and stakeholders attending, which is in response to an area for development in the previous inspection. Year Six pupils attend the Leavers' Services at Gloucester Cathedral each year. These links are valuable in enabling pupils to increase their experience of the Christian Church and those who belong to it.

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

The commitment of the headteacher together with the governing body means that the vision and core Christian values of the school are clearly articulated and manifested in practice throughout the school. The headteacher's spiritual leadership is strong, imaginative, creative and effective and ensures a permeating Christian ethos which is an outstanding feature of the school. The school has given careful consideration to a focus for development in the previous inspection which was that governors should be more involved in monitoring and evaluating RE and collective worship. The foundation governors now evaluate the impact of collective worship, take part in learning walks, talk to children and observe RE lessons in order to promote further the school's Christian character. As a result of this rigorous self-evaluation, the school has a very accurate picture of its strengths and areas for development. Parents are very appreciative of the positive impact of the school's Christian ethos on their children's education and spiritual and personal development. They talk enthusiastically about the Christian values and the way in which they impact on their children at home as well as in school. They also appreciate the links with the local church and welcome opportunities to join the children for services held in church. The school has strong links with the local church and community. The partnership with the local church is strong and is evidence of the way that their lives are closely intertwined. The vicar and clergy are regular visitors to the school to lead worship or to spend time with children discussing the Christian values. There are many mutually supportive links between the church and the school. For example, the church provides funding for transport to the church when needed and members of the Open the Book team are regular visitors to lead collective worship. Community links are also strong and children have many opportunities to be involved in different aspects of village life, such as by visiting a home for elderly people. This helps children to demonstrate the Christian values of respect and compassion. Statutory requirements for RE and collective worship are met and both are inspirational aspects of the life of the school. The supportive relationships between all members of the school community are clearly rooted in Christian values, providing an excellent example of a school which is both distinctive and effective.

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