



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Anne's Church of England VA Primary School

Bristol Road
Hewish, Weston super Mare
BS24 6RT
and
1 Scot Elm Drive
West Wick
Weston-s-Mare
North Somerset
BS24 7JU

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Bath and Wells

Local authority: North Somerset
Date of inspection: 15 March 2016
Date of last inspection: 15 March 2011
School's unique reference number: 109217
Headteacher: Lisa Dadds
Inspector's name and number: Marianne Phillips 586

School context

St Anne's Church of England VA primary school is one school on two sites. There are 246 pupils on roll; 60 housed on the new, purpose built West Wick campus and 186 on the Hewish campus, in the original Victorian school. The school changed its status from VC to VA in March 2013. The headteacher was appointed to her post in April 2014 and the West Wick campus was opened in January 2015. 15% of pupils are eligible for free school meals and 16% of pupils are from the Traveller community.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Anne's as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The commitment to learning for all using the guidance from Christian values and Jesus as a role model.
- The strong, spiritual leadership of the headteacher and governors, which drives the school's Christian distinctiveness.
- The attitude of pupils to learning and the work of the 'parliament' which is effective in sharing 'pupil voice' and developing leadership skills.
- The sense of 'team' and family, where all stakeholders feel they belong.

Areas to improve

- Focus, as a whole school, on prayer, building on existing strengths to deepen pupils' understanding of its purpose.
- Embed the role of the new leader in religious education (RE) to further develop her strong skills, providing opportunities for these to be shared across the school.

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

St Anne's is an outstanding church school. It is dedicated to encourage every member of its family to, 'Learn to love and love to learn'. It promotes this aim through strategies that challenge all stakeholders to 'Learn without Limits' (LWL) nurtured through Christian values of love, care, compassion, thankfulness, kindness, respect, tolerance, fellowship and responsibility. These values are lived out daily through the strong relationships that exist and the belief that "every child is one of God's precious and unique learners". Pupils, regardless of their ability, faith or back ground are given the confidence to succeed. Staff build self- esteem and a desire to learn and to take risks. "Who holds the power?" is one of the questions pupils are encouraged to investigate. Parents praise this distinctively Christian school for its support. They appreciate belonging to a school family and are confident that both sites, although physically apart are united in belief and approaches. School life is underpinned by the teaching of Jesus. Inclusive practices celebrate diversity and equality. The curriculum is exciting and as one child explained, "it doesn't matter what part of the learning journey you are on you get challenged; there is always more to learn". There is a wealth of evidence to show that this is the norm. Displays and artefacts celebrate the memories: 'of Elsa and Anna's mediaeval, making-friends banquet', attended at West Wick by the 'Busy Bees' classes, staff and 100 parents; of the 'Magna Carta' rules agreed by each class and the weekly 'Parliament' run by year 6. Pupils enter the school with skills below national expectations. By the time they enter year 1 many display achievement above national expectation. Systems to track pupil progress highlight individuals that may be struggling. This triggers effective, targeted support from the learning mentor and other key staff to enable all pupils, including the most vulnerable to progress, so that by the time they leave the school pupils are at least in line and many are above national targets. The governors work closely with teachers. They carry out learning walks to monitor the quality of teaching and learning in RE and other core subjects. They record their findings in reports to governors. Pupils enjoy RE because it helps them to understand other religions and cultures. Visits and visitors enrich these studies. They are happy and feel safe and protected. As members of the parliament explain, "there is no bullying and not many disagreements". They all understand the importance of being a church school and are pleased that they are taught about Jesus and God, to develop a better understanding of Christianity world-wide.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is at the heart of the school. It daily unites the school community in celebration, singing and signing through songs such as 'Love the Lord Your God and Your Neighbour as Yourself'. Pupils have fun and often take a lead in prayer, drama and reflection. They share how "Jesus' adventures in the Bible" can help them understand values like 'compassion' and 'being a neighbour' and can guide them to 'treat others the way they would like to be treated'. Worship is led by the headteacher, Christians from the network of 5 churches called 'New Creation' and staff. 'Take 5' is another weekly church service held at West Wick where families come together as a community, sustaining the strong links between church and school. Numbers are growing and parents confirm how much they appreciate the "wonderful Christian support". In worship pupils learn about Anglican tradition and grow spiritually through prayer and reflection. The 3 wick candle used reminds them of the Trinity. Creative strategies such as stilling, their spiritual garden and forest schools encourage reflection. 'Being prayerful' is a developmental focus for the school to help deepen the pupils' understanding of the purpose of prayer. The 'prayer station' project is planned to support them in this. Pupils behave excellently and governors and staff ask them to share their views of worship. They also use the weekly parliament to do this. Governors and leaders have a clear understanding of the quality of worship and RE because of the monitoring they do. As a result, worship is effective in nurturing and inspiring the spiritual development of the pupils, staff and the community.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Standards in RE are good and compare well with achievement in other core subjects. The RE curriculum follows diocesan guidance and is planned to include creative, enquiry based approaches. Pupils think and reflect on a range of religions and are challenged to respond to biblical teaching. They also discuss real life dilemmas to consider how Jesus might guide them to resolve the issues. The teaching of RE, from observations and walk-throughs, is consistently good or better. This was reflected in the two lessons observed during the inspection. The RE leader is new in post. She attends training to build upon her existing strengths and to support her in embedding her role. Training is also accessed to support the work of the governors of the school. Networking with other schools to moderate judgements across core subjects is already a feature of the school. The coordinator would like to extend this to include moderation in RE to ensure judgements are consistent. RE planning is linked closely to SMSC and PSHE and additional resources are accessed to introduce pupils to experiences that are important in shaping their future lives. There is regular sharing through network meetings with other local schools. The Parliament regularly explores Christian values linked with British values to build their leadership skills and social awareness as young citizens of the future.

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

The spiritual leadership of the headteacher, supported by the deputy, staff and governors drives the Christian distinctiveness of the school. Agreeing the vision and values for the school was a long-term goal that linked with the change in status in 2013 and involved all the stakeholders. This provides a strong Christian foundation which has been further strengthened through the appointment of the headteacher and the construction of the new school at West Wick. The headteacher positively influences the lives of the pupils through her energy and belief that “all children are gifted, they just open their parcels at different times”. School leaders and governors know the strengths of the school and address areas for improvement through regular review, evaluation and action planning. They have a clear understanding of pupil performance and work tirelessly to ensure pupils ‘learn without limits’ and set their expectation high. There is a team approach adopted in all areas of school life, which builds capacity and security for the future of the school. Parents appreciate that they are welcomed and encouraged as ‘members of the team’. The school organises training so parents understand how to support their children to achieve their goals. They also ensure that pupils lead the parent interviews to share their successes and needs as learners. The positive ethos of the school encourages all groups’ attendance. The developmental points from the previous inspection have been met. The school is held in high regard by the community it serves.

SIAMS report March 2016 St Anne’s CE (VA) Primary BS24 6RT and BS24 7JU