



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Crockerne Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Westward Drive
Pill
Bristol
BS20 0JP

Diocese:	Bath and Wells
Local authority:	North Somerset
Date of inspection:	12 th November 2014
Date of last inspection:	5 th November 2009
School's unique reference number:	131120
Headteachers:	Mrs Lara Furnidge and Mrs Geeta Verrell
Inspector's name and number:	Mrs Daphne Spitzer NS No 37

School context

Crockerne Church of England Primary School serves the villages of Easton in Gordano, Pill and Ham Green, a semi - rural area close to the city of Bristol. It is a 10 class primary school with 297 children on roll with 43 places in the nursery class. The majority of children are from white British heritage families. The number of children with learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities is below the national average as is the number eligible to receive Pupil Premium. Since the last inspection two co- headteachers have been in post. The long serving Rector works within a local ecumenical team ministry.

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

- The role of collective worship in promoting the school's distinctive Christian values has a strong impact on children's achievement and personal development
- The strong leadership by the co-headteachers, together with very good teamwork of the governors and staff, provides direction for the school's distinctive Christian character
- The high quality of the provision for spiritual development enables children to value faith

Areas to improve

- Share the school's distinctive Christian values with parents to a greater extent so that they are better informed and able to support the school

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

Crockerne Church of England Primary School is a welcoming, inclusive, Christian school community. The school promotes a wide range of values underpinned by Christian teaching

which are integral to the whole life of the school. The Christian value of love is understood by children to be central to daily life at school; as noted in their school prayer. Children are welcoming and supportive of each other. They say it is important to forgive and as a result, relationships amongst the children are outstanding. As one child said, the school is 'like a big family, only even better'. Distinctive Christian values have a strong impact on children's academic achievement, personal development and well-being, ensuring that standards of learning are good. This is evident in comments from children about the values of trust and courage such as 'you trust God will help you take risks with your work' or 'you need courage to say I didn't understand'. Spiritual development has been a high priority in recent years and is outstanding. Central reflection areas are used well as places to 'calm down' and pray. However children insist that focus areas are not always required as you can 'pray anywhere at any time and God will listen'. In this way children are developing a good understanding of faith, as seen in the comment 'we grow to trust God even more'. The school's values are embedded in the curriculum and identified as relevant by children. For example, children identified the link between the value of peace and their recent topic on World War Two and Remembrance. Children are developing a good understanding and respect for people from diverse communities. One example is the importance placed on the work of the popular Culture Club when the children share their learning about other countries with the whole school during worship; another is the engaging way other faiths are taught in religious education (RE). Good links have been developed between the school and another in France and South Africa enabling children to understand the role of Christianity as a global faith. Religious education contributes very effectively to spiritual growth. This was evident in a lesson where children were enabled, using high quality teaching methods, to imagine they were present at Jesus' baptism. The depth of the children's thinking was illustrated by a child's comment that he'd been desperate to speak to Jesus and ask him questions about himself.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is distinctively Christian and of central importance in the life of the school. This is because worship promotes the children's understanding of the school as part of God's family, emphasised by the words of the school prayer. Worship is highly effective in promoting the school's distinctive Christian values, noted in the way that the value of trust was illustrated by a key Bible story in the worship observed. Children believe that worship is meaningful because they are highly engaged as active participants; they say that the message is easily understood particularly when led by the children's Worship team, known as the CREW. Worship promotes spiritual awareness exceptionally well. This is evident in the guided reflection often led by the Rector and quality of prayers led by the children; also in the highly innovative way children's reflections from previous acts of worship are recorded and used at the start of subsequent acts. In this way children identify with the impact of Christian values and spiritual themes ensuring that they become embedded in the life of the school. Children's understanding of Anglican practice is developing very well. This is evident in the way a candle is lit to represent the light of Christ, and the use of a greeting and response is linked to the Christian value of peace. The co-headteacher who leads worship enables all staff to feel supported by developing very detailed plans. The recent initiative to develop class worship has been successful because children say they are all involved to a greater extent in contributing their thoughts and reflections. Collective worship is monitored and evaluated very well; individual acts of worship are monitored by staff, children and governors and worship planned at a range of levels. This ensures that issues are addressed that lead to improvement, such as the greater focus on promoting Christian values in school during the last year.

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

The improvement in the school's distinctive Christian character since the last inspection has been profound. The co-headteachers' Christian vision and their commitment to this vision are the driving force at the heart of the school's success and significant improvement as a church

school. The governing body's well established ethos committee have played a significant role in promoting and supporting the school's distinctive Christian character over the recent period. They monitor and evaluate the school's performance as a church school in a rigorous manner. Plans for the school's improvement are fully comprehensive and highly effective. The Rector and Baptist Minister, who are both active in the life of the school, play a key role on the committee together with RE subject leaders ensuring that expertise is shared in a productive manner. Parents are exceptionally supportive of the school. They speak highly of the way the school's distinctive Christian character impacts on their children in a very positive manner; for instance, in how they develop spiritually by talking about prayer and reflection and enjoy singing hymns. Parents feel their views matter; they are regularly consulted on the school as a church school and note how well issues are addressed. The ethos committee recognises that the school's Christian values as yet have not been fully shared with parents and have started this process. The links with the diocese are good. Staff and governors make very effective use of professional development ensuring that its impact at all levels is good. The school's successful team approach is reflected in the way that RE is led and managed. Children's learning is assessed at regular intervals, their progress monitored and tracked very well in line with other core subjects. A programme of visitors from other faiths enriches the RE curriculum, promoting the inclusive nature of the school's distinctive Christian character. The partnerships with the churches and local communities are strong and mutually beneficial. This is evident in the way the school plays a full role in the life of the village and churches and also the contributions such as the new altar cloths being made by local parishioners, which enriches the life of the school. The 'Experience Church' day, established by the Rector and Baptist Minister, demonstrates the work of the local ecumenical team, who are seen as an extension of the school within God's big family.

SIAMS November 2014, Crockerne VC Primary School, Pill, BS20 0JP