



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St George Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Queen's Parade
Brandon Hill
Bristol BS1 5XJ

Previous SIAS grade: Satisfactory

Current SIAMS grade: Good

Diocese: Bristol

Local authority: City of Bristol

Dates of inspection: 1 July 2015

Date of last inspection: 19 June 2012

School's unique reference number: 109145

Headteacher: Shireen Hayes

Inspector's name and number: Muriel Griffiths NS268

School context

St George VC Primary school has 81 pupils and is close to the centre of Bristol. Children attending the school come from surrounding areas. The proportion of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs and those eligible for the pupil premium is above average. The proportion of pupils from minority ethnic groups is well above average and rising; the proportion of pupils who arrive at the school at an early stage of learning English is also well above the national average and increasing.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St George VC Primary School as a Church of England school are good

- The strong emphasis on explicit Christian values makes a significant contribution to the children's well-being and spiritual development.
- The committed enthusiastic leadership of the headteacher in developing an environment where all feel valued.
- The confidence that children show in expressing their feelings and opinions as a result of the secure and inclusive Christian ethos.

Areas to improve

- Involve children in designing areas for quiet reflection so enhancing opportunities for their spiritual development.
- Provide greater opportunities for children to be regularly involved in planning and leading acts of worship so that they develop more understanding and ownership of worship.
- Develop the school's Christian distinctiveness so that the Christian character is understood by the multi-faith community of the school.

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

St George Church of England Primary School is a welcoming, friendly Christian community. Core Christian values are fully embedded and permeate all aspects of the daily life of the school. Children are clear about their meaning because they are displayed all around the school and referred to regularly by adults. Children know that the values are rooted in teaching from the Bible and talk, for example, of how 'Daniel showed courage in the lions' den'. They apply the values to their own lives and explain how values can be applied to their learning; 'we use courage to make the next step in our learning'. 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, children's achievement is good. The school's Christian values also make a strong impact on its inclusion provision; individuals in vulnerable groups are closely tracked and early intervention strategies are put in place and make good progress. Children from minority ethnic groups also make good progress as a result of effective help. Parents like the family feeling of the school and appreciate the way that children support each other. They say that the school is supportive of the different cultures represented in the school. The school's Christian ethos, collective worship and religious education (RE) are effective in supporting children's spiritual, moral and social development. Children listen respectfully to one another and share their views and opinions as they know that what they say will be valued. For example, in an RE lesson when children were thinking about how music is used to express religious beliefs, one child commented that he liked Gregorian chants because 'it's calming when I just want to be still'. The school community has a shared understanding of spirituality and how it can be developed through curriculum planning and times of quiet reflection. Older children, for example, have had opportunities to reflect about Remembrance Day, and one child wrote, 'I feel really proud of those who fought in the war for us and our freedom'. The children would benefit, however, from the development of more areas for interactive reflection. Children show great awareness of the diversity of cultures in school and not only respect each other's beliefs and cultures but enjoy learning about them. This also helps children to have an understanding that Christianity is a global faith. Children are active in a number of charitable activities, such as support for the 'Za Foundation', which shows that they want to help make the world a better place so demonstrating God's love and care.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship is an important time of the day at St George school. It plays a key role in promoting the school's distinctive Christian values. Children learn about Christian values, Bible stories, religious traditions and special days in the Christian calendar. They say that they find worship a helpful time because 'it helps us to know how to live our lives'. All members of the school community are involved in giving their views on worship through the 'Global Community Group'. Children volunteer to be members of this group, which gives opportunities for them to bring their own ideas of what they would like to think about during worship and share these thoughts during key stage and class worship. Collective worship resources support teachers in their class worship and help to bring a focus and change in the classroom atmosphere which supports the children in being calm and reflective. After discussion about worship with children, the school has found that they have a good understanding of the purpose behind daily worship but would like more opportunities to be involved in planning and leading. Children know that prayer, reflection and listening to Bible stories are all important elements that contribute to daily worship. Parents appreciate opportunities to join their children for worship on Fridays, when both children's achievement and demonstrating the current value are celebrated. Following the school's recent 'Prayer Week', children understand the importance of personal prayer and reflection and know that prayer can be 'to say sorry' or 'thank you' to God. They are also beginning to show an understanding of God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The school has recently held a

service, 'Give Thanks and Celebrate' in Bristol Cathedral for parents and children to celebrate the school's improvement and achievement. Christian festivals and Remembrance Day are also celebrated in local churches.

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

The headteacher has a strong vision for the continuing development of the school's Church of England foundation. At St George school, a community has been created where Christian values are not only expressed but 'lived out' and at the heart of the school. The leadership and management are united in their desire to strive for continual improvement which benefits all members of the school community. Actions are sharply focused on what needs to improve. The headteacher, staff and governors have addressed the areas for development from the previous inspection, demonstrating their commitment to improvement as a Church school. The school has a number of areas for development named in their improvement planning, one of which is to give a higher profile to the school's Christian character in view of the multi-faith nature of the school community. For example, the aims and vision do not explicitly show the Church of England foundation of the school. The school does not currently have its full complement of governors but following self-evaluation by previous governors, a governor action plan is in place. The school is aware of the need to recruit more governors and a new foundation governor has recently joined the governing body. He has been to visit the RE subject leader and is also reviewing the work of Parent Voice and the Christian Distinctiveness Working Party, begun by the previous foundation governor. The RE subject leader is very effective in ensuring that the subject plays an important role in the life of the school. She has attended diocesan RE training and conferences and as a result has disseminated good practice throughout the school. Parents have opportunities to express their views about the school as a Church school. They clearly appreciate the fact that the school has a Church foundation and it is evident that they like the care, based on the Christian values, shown to their children. Parents' views are valued and used, as they communicate in person or through questionnaires. The school values its support from local churches, such as at Easter and Advent celebrations and also 'Moving On' workshops at the Cathedral for Year 6 leavers. It looks forward to stronger links with newly appointed clergy. The school has also appreciated help and support from a parent who is a theological student, working at one of the local churches, providing help in a number of ways, such as with links between the Christian values and the Church calendar. The enthusiasm and commitment given by the school's leadership and management ensure that children have every opportunity to grow and develop into mature, knowledgeable and caring young people.

SIAMS report July 2015 St George CEVC Primary School Bristol BS1 5XJ