

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Stoke Bishop Church of England Primary School

Cedar Park,
Stoke Bishop,
Bristol,
BS9 1BW

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese	Bristol
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Date of academy conversion	April 2013
Date of inspection	15 November 2017
Date of last inspection	28 September 2012
Type of school and unique reference number	Academy 139505
Headteacher	Philippa Hepworth
Inspector's name and number	Daphne Spitzer NS No 37

School context

Stoke Bishop Church of England School is a two form entry primary school with 408 children on roll, serving a diverse community in the north west of the city of Bristol. The majority of children are from White British heritage families. The proportion of children with special educational needs and or/physical disabilities (SEND) is in line with the national average as is the proportion of children eligible to be in receipt of the pupil premium grant. It has converted to become an academy since the previous inspection. In July 2017 it was the first school in the diocese to achieve the Church School Partnership Award.

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

- Outstanding relationships promoted by the school's Christian values such as forgiveness and friendship have a strong impact on children's personal development and well-being.
- The partnership between the school and church community is exceptionally close and contributes significantly to the school's distinctive Christian character.
- The inspirational leadership of the headteacher and assistant headteacher is driving the continuous improvement of the school's distinctive Christian character thereby raising its impact.

Areas to improve

- Review and refine the way the school develops spirituality in the curriculum, building on the existing good practice in order to further promote the quality of children's personal spirituality.
- Monitor the growth of children's ability to articulate their thoughts and adapt practice in order to further develop children's personal development and well-being as well as their spiritual development.

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

Stoke Bishop Church of England Primary School is a highly inclusive, warm and welcoming Christian community. The school promotes values, deeply rooted in Christian teaching, which are having a significant impact on children's behaviour, personal development and well-being. The school's safe and secure environment where each child is cherished as a unique individual made in God's image contributes profoundly to their high levels of confidence and self-esteem. This has a very positive impact on the children's good attendance and achievement. Children say their school is a happy community where relationships are of the highest quality because they are built on the Christian values of friendship and forgiveness and any problems between them are quickly sorted. A variety of creative opportunities are provided for children to play together in mixed age groups throughout the day at playtimes. In this way, warm and friendly relationships are encouraged across the school.

Children recognise the importance of religious education (RE) in the school curriculum, understanding that it has a significant impact in promoting the school's vision and Christian character. They enjoy the subject because they find it relevant to their lives. Religious education is very effective in encouraging children to reflect on the school's values and think deeply thereby promoting spiritual development.

The school's rich curriculum strongly promotes its vision as well as spiritual, moral, social and cultural development very effectively. Both staff and children have a good understanding of spirituality. The use of whole class Wow Spirituality Books clearly demonstrates children's ability to articulate their thoughts in depth from the use of Big Questions linked to the school's Christian values. The school has yet to review and monitor the way the questions are phrased in order to maximise the quality of children's responses. The annual Prayer Day held in school creates a welcome space where children reflect on their lives, their hopes and the way Christian values affect their lives. The GLOW (Guardian Leaders of Worship) meet weekly with the assistant headteacher, discussing the role of prayer in school as well as promoting collective worship. Regular visitors linked to the church, such as the recent visitors from Uganda, enable children to gain a good understanding of Christianity as a global faith. In a similar way, children know that people of other faiths and cultures are part of British society. The close links between British values and the school's Christian values, such as the need to show respect for others, are recognised and appreciated. Children have high levels of respect, tolerance and acceptance of people of other faiths and a strong desire to treat all with equality and help others at a national and international level.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is a time of central importance in the daily life of all the whole school community at Stoke Bishop. Children clearly recognise that worship strongly promotes the school's distinctive Christian character by its clear emphasis on biblical teaching. In particular, worship promotes Christian values which are identified by children as having a good impact on their lives. They particularly enjoy this time of day, participate well and sing with enthusiasm. A varied programme of leaders both from the school and church with different styles, in differing settings meet the needs of children very well. All members of the school community have developed a good understanding of the use of coloured cloths that represent different seasons of the church year, worship that takes place in church during the major Christian festivals and simple liturgical greetings. The central role of Christ in worship as well as the Trinity is fully recognised and understood from the lighting of three candles with responses at the start of worship. In this way, the contribution of worship to children's understanding of Anglican tradition is significant. The spiritual life of the school has a profound impact on the development of children's personal spirituality. The opportunity to join the weekly lunchtime PAD (Prayer and Discussion) group led by a church worker is much appreciated by children. They say that the reflective spaces in classrooms help them know that 'God is here' whilst at the same time emphasising the inclusive nature of their school. Weekly worship in classrooms has been successfully redesigned over the last year and has a significant impact. It provides an open and intimate setting where children reflect, discuss their thoughts and beliefs openly and pray spontaneously. They are often inspired to pray for their peers when someone is sick or in need. The current theme of the Christian value of peace is very well understood by children who comment that feeling at peace is like having 'a calmness in your heart'. In this way, worship contributes very effectively to spiritual development. The leadership and management of collective worship are outstanding. The programme is carefully and comprehensively planned for progression of themes and is very well resourced. The GLOW team contribute very effectively to the regularly monitoring of worship by governors. Changes are regularly made to address issues raised by children so that the impact is continuously sustained.

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

The school's distinctive Christian character is of the highest quality, is deeply embedded and has a significant impact on the whole school community. The school's strong Christian vision 'to inspire children to be happy and healthy individuals, enthusiastic and successful learners, caring and responsible citizens' is the driving force at the heart of the school's success and ongoing improvement as a church school. The headteacher's inspirational leadership and strong staff teamwork is reflected in the way the school has sustained its outstanding distinctive Christian character since the previous inspection. This, in turn, has contributed to the excellent outcomes for the school community. It is also reflected in the very effective way issues for development from the previous inspection have been addressed and the leadership's continuous drive to improve. Self-evaluation is led very effectively by the foundation governors, clergy and school leaders in the Church School Distinctiveness Committee. A variety of strategies are used which clearly focus on feedback from children and the ways in which outcomes can be improved.

Professional development is extensive, highly supportive and ongoing, ensuring that all staff consistently approach the implementation of new initiatives with confidence. This is evident in the profound impact of class worship and of the new RE resource 'Understanding Christianity'. The assistant headteacher, in her role as RE subject leader, is very well supported by the school leadership team who work closely with her to ensure that its contribution to the school curriculum is of the highest quality. Members of staff are a very caring and supportive team who live out the school's Christian vision and are highly valued by parents and children. Parents are very supportive of the school and highly appreciative of the school's inclusive nature, seen in the way it promotes other faiths and cultures as well as Christianity. Parents feel very welcome and contribute very effectively to the life of the school. The spiritual life of the school is enhanced considerably by its strong partnerships with parents and the church. The Parents Prayer Group meets monthly at school and has a high profile in the school community. The concern, compassion as well as prayers given by the church community are a vibrant expression of the Christian love felt for the school. The exceptional strength of the church and school partnership has been recognised recently by a special award from the diocese. The school is now on the point of developing a partnership with a school in Spain in order to widen children's understanding of diverse communities beyond Great Britain. The school meets the statutory requirements for RE and collective worship.

SIAMS report November 2017, Stoke Bishop CE Primary School, Cedar Park, Bristol, BS8 1BW