



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Brinkworth Earl Danby's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Hill
Brinkworth
Chippenham
SN15 5AX

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current SIAMS grade: Good

Diocese: Bristol

Local authority: Wiltshire

Date of inspection: 23 March 2015

Date of last inspection: 25 March 2010

School's unique reference number: 126390

Headteacher: Laura Hilliard

Inspector's name and number: David Shears (423)

School context

Brinkworth Earl Danby's CE Primary School is a one-form entry school which operates on two sites, just over two miles apart. Most pupils are white British. The headteacher took up her post in September 2013 and the vicar started his duties at the local church in January 2014. One of the two foundation governors has very recently joined the governing body and an associate governor also supports the Christian distinctiveness of the school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Brinkworth Earl Danby's Primary as a Church of England school are good

- Pupils' enjoyment of and enthusiasm for religious education (RE) and collective worship results in effective learning about Christianity and how it can impact on their behaviour and attitudes.
- The school's recent work on the development of spirituality is having a positive impact on pupils' ability to reflect more deeply and translate this into positive actions.
- School leaders are accurate in recognising what needs to be done to develop the Christian distinctiveness of the school further and acting on this in a timely way.

Areas to improve

- Develop pupils' opportunities for spiritual development by supporting parents more in reinforcing the school's Christian values at home.
- Give pupils frequent opportunities to plan and lead whole school acts of worship so that they understand the importance of each aspect to the worship experience.
- Ensure that monitoring of the Christian ethos by foundation governors is securely developed, robustly recorded and used to support further improvements as a church school.

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

The very positive relationships between pupils and staff contribute to the pupils' enjoyment of school and their enthusiasm for learning. Parents are very supportive of the school, saying that teachers care well for pupils and look out for any that need particular support. Pupils say that this is because they belong to a church school. They know well the six Christian values that are promoted by the school and are able to cite Biblical stories that illustrate these. The impact of values such as 'respect' can be clearly seen in the attitudes and behaviour of pupils, both of which are good. While pupils say that there is occasionally some unkind behaviour, they have been taught helpful strategies to manage difficult situations. Pupils are confident that staff are always on hand to support them and deal successfully with any concerns. For the large majority of the time pupils care well for each other and this extends to helping others who are less fortunate than themselves, such as raising money to support good causes. Other values such as 'excellence' promote pupils' resilience in learning and this results in good academic achievement. Overall the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is good. In particular, pupils have a clear understanding of moral values and are able to work well alongside each other, demonstrating their well-established social skills. Pupils recognise the importance of respect for people of other cultures and faiths, although they would benefit from an increased understanding of these through visits out and visitors to the school. The school has focused well on pupils' spiritual development. Staff have received effective support in establishing a coherent plan for promoting spirituality and this is already having a very positive impact on pupils who talk about enjoying the regular opportunities to reflect and pray together. RE is leading the way in promoting spirituality in the curriculum and there are increasing opportunities for reflection in other subjects. Parents say that they are happy with the focus on Christian values. However, the school does not routinely communicate with parents about these values or how they can support their children in developing these at home.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship is well-planned and is securely based on the school's Christian values. Consequently these values, which are consistently re-visited and developed further, are well known to pupils and used to impact positively on their behaviour and attitudes in school. Good use is made of visitors to lead worship, such as a group of parishioners who bring the Bible to life through 'Open the Book'. A representative from 'Scripture Union' regularly leads worship and supports the school well in providing more effective opportunities for spiritual development. All teachers regularly lead worship and carefully record what has happened to ensure the continuity of learning across the week. Pupils have a good knowledge of a range of Bible stories and can relate these to the school's Christian values. The school's focus on spirituality has had a major impact on the effectiveness of collective worship. Pupils use liturgy to express the worship of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Pupils speak of the importance of prayer and say that they enjoy having times to reflect on what they have learnt and how they can put this into practice in their own lives. This is clearly taught through three stages, the first to learn about a particular aspect of Christian living, the second to reflect on how this might apply to them and the third to enable them to do something about it. Pupils say that collective worship is important explaining that it 'helps to make you a better person'. They enjoy singing in collective worship and talk enthusiastically about their favourite worship songs. The school's collective worship leader regularly gathers views from pupils about their experiences in collective worship and uses them alongside the views of staff to drive further improvements. The school makes good use of one of the local churches as a venue for celebrating the main Christian festivals. Consequently pupils are used to being in a church and enjoy the experience. Parents are invited to these events and say that the church is always full. Pupils participate in many acts of worship. However, they do not have enough opportunities to plan and lead whole acts of worship for other pupils in the school and this limits their understanding of the importance of different aspects of worship that contribute to the whole

experience. The school has already recognised and identified this as the next step in the development of collective worship.

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

School leaders have a clear understanding of Brinkworth Earl Danby's as a church school and have correctly identified its strengths and areas for development. The school's Christian values are well established and known by staff and pupils and this supports the development of pupils' personal skills well. The school recognises that its monitoring is not always recorded in a formal manner and has plans to address this. However, the impact of the school's identified areas for improvement from the previous report, such as the focus on spiritual development, has enhanced the effectiveness of the school's Christian distinctiveness and is demonstrating good improvement. Foundation governors are very supportive of the school but do not sufficiently check the impact of collective worship and RE and so are not able to contribute fully to evaluating how well the school is doing or in discussions about future development. The headteacher and the leader for RE work well together in identifying areas for further development and ensuring that these have an impact in the school. Parents say that they are aware of the impact of the school's Christian character through the conversations that their children initiate at home. They feel that the school has managed to achieve the balance between promoting Christianity while allowing pupils to respond to it in their own way. Staff are positive about the school's Christian foundation and receive good quality training to support them in promoting this in school. This has included recent training on understanding how to develop pupils' spiritual understanding and putting this into practice across the school. The areas for development identified at the time of the previous inspection have been addressed. There are good links with the local church with members supporting the school well such as through leading acts of collective worship. The effectiveness of school leaders can be clearly seen through the impact that the school is having on pupils' growing and deepening understanding of the Christian faith and how it can impact in positive ways in their individual lives. This good work has yet to be shared and celebrated more widely both with parents and the local communities in which pupils live.

SIAMS report March 2015 Brinkworth Earl Danby's CE (VC) Primary School, Brinkworth SN15 5AX