



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Harvington Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School

Village Street, Harvington, Evesham, WR11 5NQ

Previous SIAS grade: Good

Current SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Worcester

Local authority: Worcestershire

Date of inspection: 22 June 2015

Date of last inspection: 5 July 2010

School's unique reference number: 116819

Headteacher: Helen Fishbourne

Inspector's name and number: Lynn Gill

Jo Fageant (assessor)

School context

Harvington CE First School is situated in the village of Harvington just over 4 miles from the centre of the town of Evesham. It is a smaller than average sized school with 203 pupils on roll including the non-maintained nursery. The children are taught in single aged classes. The majority of pupils are of white British heritage. The number of children eligible for free school meals is just below average, but the percentage of children supported at school action or school action plus is above average. The school has opted to have a full inspection of religious education (RE) as part of this SIAMS inspection despite this not being a statutory requirement for a voluntary controlled school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Harvington CE First School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The inclusive Christian vision of the school ensures that all children are supported in their personal wellbeing and in their academic achievement.
- Christian distinctiveness is an important feature of all monitoring and evaluation which helps the school continue to improve as a church school.
- The Christian ethos of the school enables children to have a depth of maturity, wisdom and insight which allows them to express their opinions with confidence and an intrinsic respect for others.

Areas to improve

- Develop and articulate a shared interpretation of spirituality so that staff can plan for a range of high quality spiritual experiences for all learners.

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

At Harvington CE First School Christian values are deeply embedded in the daily life of the school. The values form the focus for collective worship, are clearly displayed around the school and are prominent in all areas of the school's curriculum. The school constantly strives to reinterpret their shared values in ways which not only relate to biblical teaching but also to the children's day-to-day experiences. The consequence of this is that children not only know the values, but understand their meaning and the relevance of them to their own lives. For example, staff commented that when there is a dispute in the playground children say that "it is always good to tell the truth". This impact goes beyond the school and parents feel strongly that the school's teaching of its Christian values complements their own values at home, and helps children to make informed choices in every aspect of their lives. One pupil commented, "Jesus is always with us, helping us along on our journey in life". Pupils have a strong voice in the school by leading the Pupil Parliament, School Council and Sunshine Group. Although the school takes spiritual development seriously there is not an explicitly articulated understanding of this shared across the whole school community. The outstanding behaviour at Harvington is a direct consequence of the school's Christian values, with expectations rooted in respect and forgiveness. The school vision, 'Together we Achieve', was founded on the nurture, care and support which permeates the life of the school like "the words running through a stick of rock" and this is evident in the warm relationships between all members of the school community. This approach is also evident in the school's outlook on academic achievement: children of all abilities are nurtured to achieve as well as they are able resulting in pupils' attainment and achievement being at least in line with and often well above national expectations. Also stemming from the school's commitment to understanding everyone as a unique individual is impressive work in RE on teaching about Christianity and a range of other faiths, which ensures that children have a deep respect for diversity and difference. In all these ways, the Christian character of the school has an outstanding impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is central to the life of the school and is the inspiration for promoting learning about Christian values and biblical teachings. A strength of collective worship is the careful planning of half-termly themes based on the 18 Christian values from the 'Values for Life' scheme alongside the school's six core values. This enables children to relate the Christian values to their own actions at school and at home. Collective worship has a strong focus on the teachings of Jesus, particularly through the popular 'Open the Book' worship, and learners have a good appreciation of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Learners explore the use of prayer making good use of the school's provision for personal prayer through reflective areas both in the classrooms and in the outdoor environment where Christian symbols and values are displayed. Pupils gave an example of using prayer if a member of their family is unwell. Pupils use their individual Sunshine diaries in thinking time provided to record their thoughts about what they hear and experience in collective worship. Pupils very much enjoy contributing to collective worship. The Sunshine Group, with help from the vicar, plan and lead Christian festivals in the local church. Parents, who recognise that collective worship and Christian values are important to their children, commented that the recent 'Ribbon Service' at Easter was both moving and inspirational. New resources have been purchased and will be used in the autumn term to train and support more children to take increasing responsibility for leading worship. Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of collective worship is highly effective and leads directly to significant improvement. For example, as a result of governor evaluation reflection areas have been developed to provide increasingly challenging topics as the children progress through the school. The Sunshine diaries are also evaluated by the Sunshine Group and school leaders resulting in effective improvements in collective worship.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Inspiring, informed and reflective leadership by the RE co-ordinator ensures that RE is a significant strength of Harvington. The subject is rigorously monitored and evaluated so that the co-ordinator is well aware of its strengths and areas for development. This means that actions included in the school improvement plan are carefully focussed, resulting in continuous improvement. Standards in RE are at least in line with national expectation with significant numbers of pupils attaining higher levels. Thorough marking challenges pupils to extend their understanding of Christianity and other religious beliefs, ensuring that they make good progress. Assessment is extremely thorough and is carefully moderated by staff. This means that teachers are able to plan meticulously to ensure that tasks meet the needs of all learners. Their excellent subject knowledge and warm relationships with pupils allow teachers to approach the subject creatively and practically, ensuring that the frequently outstanding teaching of RE is both inspiring and challenging. Pupils enjoy RE and draw lessons from it about how to live their lives. The school broadens pupils' experiences of a wide range of faiths with each class visiting different places of worship each year. Pupils are able to confidently make links between the beliefs and practices of the faiths they are studying. Through the rich and varied curriculum, strong links are made with the school's Christian values, with the result that RE has a significant impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils at the school.

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

The headteacher and all leaders articulate a very clear vision for the school as a church school resulting in an excellent shared understanding of Christian distinctiveness right across the school community. Recent work on involving all members of the school community in redefining the school's Christian values has been extremely effective in clarifying the school's vision and ensuring that the values have a direct impact on children's and adults' lives. Parents in particular welcomed the chance to be involved in this process. Staff describe the school as a family where, through the strong Christian values, there is a commitment to supporting each child as a unique individual and everyone is nurtured. The school has highly effective systems for self-evaluation. School leaders constantly monitor the impact of the school's Christian distinctiveness and this means that they have a keen understanding of the school's performance and that evaluation leads directly to strategies for improvement. There are effective and beneficial links between school, home and church. A result of this is that the school is seen increasingly as the hub of the community. For example, governors, parents and staff say that CAMEO (Come and meet each other) Teas, where older members of the community meet with Year 5 pupils each year is an important part of the school's work with the community. The empowerment of future leaders is a significant strength of the school. The collective worship and RE co-ordinator, has been supported by school leaders to transform her areas of responsibility and her inspirational ideas make a considerable impact on all learners. Together with school leaders, her contribution to developing the distinctively Christian character of the school has been significant. As a result, in line with the school's mission statement, each member of the school community feels, "treasured and loved as a unique individual".

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