



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Haselbury Plucknett Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School

North Street
Haselbury Plucknett
Crewkerne TA18 7RQ

Previous SIAS grade: Good

Current SIAMS grade: Good

Diocese: Bath and Wells

Local authority: Somerset

Date of inspection: 10 March 2015

Date of last inspection: 24 March 2010

School's unique reference number: 128163

Headteacher: Gillian Evans

Inspector's name and number: Daphne Spitzer NS No 37

School context

Haselbury Plucknett Church of England First School serves the immediate village as well as that of North Perrott and surrounding areas including the town of Crewkerne. The number of children on roll is 49 arranged in 2 mixed age classes. The proportion of children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities is below the national average as are the numbers of children eligible to receive pupil premium. The vast majority of children are from white British heritage families. The headteacher has a teaching commitment and is the only full time member of staff.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Haselbury Plucknett First School as a Church of England school are good

- Good leadership of the headteacher in providing for the development of the school's distinctive Christian character and its resulting impact on the whole life of the school
- Quality of spiritual awareness promoted by collective worship which has a positive impact on the children's personal development and well being
- Strong partnership between school and church communities which provides mutual benefits for all involved

Areas to improve

- Develop a core set of Christian values rooted in Biblical teaching, monitor and evaluate their impact on children's learning, personal and spiritual development using the whole school community
- Provide regular opportunities for children to plan and lead acts of collective worship in order to increase their ownership of this aspect of school life

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

Haselbury Plucknett Church of England First School is a friendly and happy Christian community. Christian values both implicit and explicit have a positive impact on children's learning, personal development and well-being. As a result, children feel valued, enjoy school and their achievement is good. This is evident from the impact of established values such as respect which children say help them learn because they respect their teachers. However, children also say that explicit Christian values such as perseverance promoted, for example, by their understanding of the parable of the Lost Sheep, also help them learn. This means that values which are rooted in Christian teaching are making a difference. Relationships at all levels and particularly between children are excellent. This is because children are very caring towards each other. The school's golden rule 'treat others as you wish to be treated' is promoted very well. As a result, children say that everyone gets on very well with one another and 'never fall out'. However, children are unaware that this guidance is derived from Christ's teaching. Spiritual awareness is promoted very effectively. Class prayer boxes are used very well; for example, children know their prayers are featured by the vicar during his weekly worship and will be included in his prayers. In this way the vicar is not only a special friend to the school community but also their spiritual leader which enhances the school's distinctive Christian character. Children are developing a good understanding of diverse communities, in this country and beyond. Two current initiatives, a tangible link with a school in Nairobi and a religious education (RE) project on India and Hinduism are having a strong impact; these links are also enhancing children's spiritual awareness. For instance, shells sent from African children are symbolic of the daily life of that school and promote feelings of respect and thankfulness. As a child said, 'we have so much, we want to help them'. At the same time they recognise that the link with the African children is of substantial benefit to them. Children enjoy RE; it provides opportunities to contribute to children's spiritual awareness. This was evident when younger children commented that God and Jesus were important to them because they 'love us, just like our families'. Religious education promotes Christian values well; children understood the value of trust when illustrated by the way Jesus' disciples had to trust Him when they left their families behind to follow Him.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship is an important part of the daily life at Haselbury Plucknett. Children enjoy worship because it is a time when the whole school assembles as a family community. Worship is effective in promoting distinctive Christian values. This is evident mainly from the weekly worship led by the vicar who uses Bible stories very effectively to encourage children to reflect on their message. As a result children are able to identify Christian values such as generosity from the parable of the widow's mite and relate the Christian teaching to their own lives. In this way, although worship is not yet explicitly planned to promote Christian values nevertheless it is an outcome and is having a good impact. Worship is very effective in developing spiritual awareness. Moments of reflection in worship are embedded and children are very willing and confident to share their thoughts with others. For instance, when reflecting on how Mother Teresa gave up all her belongings one child commented that he would give up his toys. Worship is led well by the headteacher. Children evaluate worship on a regular basis and know that their views are addressed. As a result, children of all ages now lead prayers. The high quality of the prayers led by children spontaneously at the end of worship included guided reflection, reinforcing the Christian message at the heart of worship. Simple liturgical responses are enabling children to develop a growing understanding of aspects of Anglican practice; as are the school's regular visits to church to celebrate Christian festivals.

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

The headteacher's Christian vision and her commitment to this vision are the driving force at the heart of the school's success and ongoing improvement as a church school. Since the last inspection a small set of values has been established based on the school's well known Christian vision. Whilst these values are not rooted in Biblical teaching, others which are linked to Christian teaching are understood by children and are having a good impact. The school's self-evaluation process is effective; it involves staff, governors and children though not parents. Religious education is monitored and evaluated by the link governor together with the subject leader and collective worship mainly involves feedback from children. However monitoring the impact of the school's Christian values by governors has not started. Parents are fully supportive of the school's distinctive Christian character and comment on their children's growing spirituality noted by their interest in writing prayers at home. Parents' contribution to the life of the school is significant. This is reflected in the recent link with the school in Nairobi and a parent who shared her knowledge and enthusiasm for India, enhancing the RE curriculum. The school's link with the diocese is good as seen by the way the school's annual visits to Wells for the Leavers' days and opportunities taken for professional development. The partnership between the church and school is strong. It has strengthened since the last inspection. Actions taken, such as holding the church fair in the school grounds, have placed the school firmly at the heart of the church and local communities. The school contributes to family services, such as the carol service, and Education Sunday and the biannual pilgrimage to North Perrott church is a joyful occasion for the whole community. Religious education is well led by a teacher who is passionate about the subject and ensures it has a prominent role in the curriculum. She works closely with the headteacher, monitoring children's learning and tracking their progress to ensure its prominence in the church school curriculum.

SIAMS report March 2015, Haselbury Plucknett Church of England First School, North Street, Haselbury Plucknett, TA18 7RQ