

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Horfield Church of England Primary School

Bishop Manor Road,
Horfield,
Bristol,
BS10 5BD

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese	Bristol
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Local authority	Bristol
Date of inspection	4 May 2017
Date of last inspection	9 May 2012
Type of school and unique reference number	109143
Headteacher	Jenny Taylor
Inspector's name and number	Daphne Spitzer NS No 37

School context

Horfield Church of England School is a two form entry primary school with 416 children on roll, located in the city of Bristol. The majority of children are from White British heritage families, although a significant minority come from a rich heritage of diverse communities. The proportion of children with special educational needs and or/physical disabilities (SEND) is below the national average and the proportion of children eligible to be in receipt of the pupil premium grant is in line with the national average. The school is the current holder of a major national literacy award.

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

- Outstanding relationships promoted by the school's Christian values of forgiveness and friendship have a strong impact on children's personal development and well-being.
- The visionary leadership of the headteacher empowers staff and children and drives continuous improvement of the school's distinctive Christian character thereby raising its impact.
- The substantial role of the curriculum in promoting spiritual development has a profound impact on the whole school community.

Areas to improve

- Underpin the school's new Christian vision by developing a set of values linked explicitly to Biblical teaching and monitor and evaluate their impact with the whole school community.
- Enable all children to develop an understanding of the Trinity as an aspect of Anglican tradition and practice in order that they fully appreciate the Church of England character of the school.

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

Horfield Church of England Primary School is a warm and welcoming Christian community. The school promotes values, deeply rooted in Christian teaching, which are having a significant impact on children's academic achievement along with their personal and spiritual development. A safe, secure and inclusive environment is created in which all children are cherished and grow in confidence and self-esteem from the knowledge that they are all loved equally as 'God's children'. The school's new Christian vision symbolised by the tree on its badge is reflected in the high quality of spirituality which underpins the school curriculum and daily life at Horfield. The school's annual learning metaphor, currently 'seeds' linked to the tree, is developed through a wealth of cultural and spiritual opportunities and experiences, in particular linked to music and the arts. These are provided to develop children's talents and contribute significantly to self-confident children who greatly enjoy school and hugely value their learning. Relationships at all levels between staff and children and between children in particular are outstanding. Children say that the values of friendship and forgiveness are crucial because these are reflected strongly in the life of Jesus. They have a deep understanding of the importance of harmonious relationships between peoples of diverse communities. This was evident last year when children spontaneously requested a celebratory day of International Friendship. Children recognise the importance of religious education (RE) in the life of the school. They value its contribution to their growing understanding of other faiths. Young children, for example, empathise with the feelings of different members of a Jewish family during their Shabbat meal. Older children make connections between the baptism of Jesus and the wonder and mystery of the Trinity through the excellent use of engaging and interactive methods of teaching. In this way RE promotes spiritual development highly effectively. Children share their faith openly whether Christian, of another faith or none in a setting of total respect and great interest. Their developing understanding is a result of the very effective way that RE is taught as well as the way spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is promoted. Children are developing an excellent understanding of Christianity as a global faith. Children's fund raising for a partner school in Uganda has been sustained over recent years to good effect. It is an example of the Christian value of generosity, understood as God's love in action and reflected in the comment that a child's smile was their reward for giving. 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. British values are promoted explicitly as Christian values by being displayed within doves, the symbol of the Holy Spirit and peace.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is distinctly Christian and a time of central importance in daily life at Horfield for the whole school community. It is inspiring and transformational. The setting created by children's quiet and reverent entry to the hall, the lighting of candles at the start of worship followed by the school's own greeting and response all signify that worship is a deeply spiritual experience. This is reflected also in choral music of the highest quality and heartfelt singing by the whole school community which enhances the strong sense of belonging to the school's Christian community. Readings from the Bible are used to good effect to promote reflection as well as a good understanding that it provides excellent guidance for life. The use of 'Big Questions' such as 'How do Christians believe God wants humans to care for the world?' linked to the theme of stewardship is very effective. This theme is a good example of how worship themes root the year's metaphor of seeds in the community's spiritual understanding of the school's vision. Children have a good understanding of the centrality of Christ in worship. However, although some children are developing a good understanding of the Trinity from learning in RE, practice in worship does not yet include a symbol or reference to the Trinity. Children make good use of classroom spiritual spaces, each customised to link with the class's special focus on the weekly worship theme. The school's prayer space is integral to the life of the school. It has been transformed this year by the collective worship council. Its profound impact is reflected in its significantly increased use by children and the council members' proposal to open the space and lead it themselves during a second lunch time each week. In this way, a deep sense of personal spirituality is promoted and reflected in children's willingness to contribute and lead prayers. Leadership and management of worship are good. Themes promote distinctive Christian values very effectively and link them where possible with the passing of the church year, such as the value of hope with Candlemas. Anglican tradition plays a prominent role in the worship programme, evident in the celebration of Ash Wednesday, Rogation Sunday as well as major Christian festivals. Weekly contributions by clergy to worship are highly valued by the school and have a good impact. Children participate well and have opportunities to plan and lead worship regularly in a variety of ways, in classroom or whole school setting. Issues raised by children's evaluations of worship are addressed in a way that leads to ongoing improvements.

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

The headteacher's outstanding leadership and strong staff teamwork is reflected in the significant progress made in the school's distinctive Christian character since the last inspection with subsequent excellent outcomes for children. The school's new vision is encapsulated in the Biblical quote 'A tree is known by its fruit'. This logo proudly displayed as the school's badge is understood exceptionally well and acts as a daily source of inspiration for staff and children alike. The school's self-evaluation is accurate and strategies for monitoring and evaluating its performance as a church school are very effective because they have led to substantial improvements. Children are involved in the self-evaluation process, particularly those in the collective worship council, who understand that they are helping to improve the distinctive Christian character. Governors have yet to review which of the school's embedded Christian values best meet the needs of the children and underpin the school's new vision. The headteacher's style of leadership, which empowers others, has created a culture where creativity is encouraged, all ideas and contributions are welcomed and individuals flourish. The funding of the transformation of the prayer space and its leadership by a volunteer parent are good examples of the way parents contributions to the life of the school are having a profound impact. The annual Lent Trail held in the school hall is a very special event, enabling children to think deeply about Easter and their own actions thereby having a significant impact on the spiritual life of the school. Professional development is regarded as a high priority for all staff. The RE subject leader, who is also a diocesan adviser, provides professional development which inspires, encourages and enables the school to be at the forefront of the latest thinking in the subject. The link governor in particular, works closely with the RE subject leader challenging whilst at the same time contributing substantially in practical ways to promoting the school's Christian character. The school's partnership with the parish church and other churches in the locality are exceptionally strong. The school meets the statutory requirements for RE and collective worship.

SIAMS report May 2017, Horfield C of E Primary School, Bishop Manor Road, Bristol, BS10 5BD