

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Broadhembury Church of England Primary School

Broadhembury
Honiton
EX14 3NF

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese	Exeter
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Local authority	Devon
Name of federation	The Jubilee Federation
Date of inspection	24 April 2018
Date of last inspection	25 April 2013
Type of school and unique reference number	Primary Voluntary Controlled 13349
Executive head of federation	Katie Gray
Inspector's name and number	Daphne Spitzer NS No 37

School context

The school is a smaller than average size primary school set in a rural area in the village of Broadhembury, near Honiton. It has 28 children on roll, arranged in 2 Key Stage classes. Children come from the large village of Dunkeswell as well as Broadhembury. The majority of children are from White British heritage families. The proportion of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is above the national average as is the proportion of children for whom the school receives the pupil premium grant. The numbers of children who join the school other than in Reception is higher than the national average. The school is a founding member of the Jubilee Federation set up in September 2012, which consists of two other small church schools under the leadership of an executive headteacher. There is also a head of teaching and learning for the federation.

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

- Outstanding relationships promoted by the school's core Christian value of love, have a strong impact on children's personal development and well-being.
- The high quality of children's spiritual awareness promoted by the school's distinctive Christian character has a profound impact on their academic achievement and well-being.
- The strength of the links between the school and other church schools, the church and diocese contribute significantly to the school's distinctive Christian character.

Areas to improve

- Develop and deepen the school's vision in line with the forthcoming new Church of England Evaluation Schedule for the benefit of the whole school community.
- Explore and engage in diocesan and other international church links in order to encourage children to think globally about the lives of Christians.

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

Broadhembury Church of England Primary School is a very welcoming, friendly Christian community. The school

creates a safe, secure and inclusive environment in which all children are cherished and grow in confidence and self-esteem from the knowledge that they are loved by God and everyone around them. The values promoted, which are deeply rooted in Christian teaching, have a significant impact on children's academic achievement along with their personal and spiritual development. They also have a very positive impact on children's good attendance and achievement. The school meets the needs of all children exceptionally well. Standards and progress for children are good.

Relationships at all levels and particularly between children are outstanding. They are built on children's excellent understanding of the Christian values of friendship, forgiveness and respect. Children have an exceptionally good understanding of spirituality. They reflect deeply as noted by the comment that 'you have doubts about yourself and realise that 'others have them too'. Their reflections enable them to understand the Christian belief of equality saying that they know 'everyone is different and the same'. The high quality of spiritual development is having a significant impact on children's learning as well as their personal development and well-being. The school's rich curriculum and religious education (RE) in particular, strongly promotes its vision and values as well as spiritual, moral, social and cultural development very effectively. Engaging and interactive methods contribute significantly to children's enjoyment of learning in RE ensuring that they find the subject relevant.

The impact of the school's Christian character is further strengthened by children's participation in the 'Inter Schools Ethos Days' involving children from across the local area. The children's ethos committee has a high profile in school and plays a significant role in promoting its Christian character. Children are developing a good understanding of people of other faiths and cultures living in this country. This is evident from very effective teaching in RE and the impact of visits to other places of worship nearby. However although children are aware of and support the aid work of Christians overseas they are less aware that Christianity is a global faith with Christians living and worshipping in countries worldwide.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is distinctively Christian and an enjoyable time of central importance in daily life at Broadhembury. All teaching staff as well as support staff attend and participate demonstrating that they find it relevant at a personal level as it is for children. The setting for worship in a specially created space in the central area of the school affirms its place at the heart of school life. Worship promotes a strong sense of the school as a close family where the love of God for each individual is recognised by the way that everyone cares for one another. In this way, the school's vision is lived out and embedded in daily life. Children are developing a good understanding of Anglican practice. Liturgical responses are used, hymnbooks and the cloth on the worship table is changed in line with church's seasons.

The outstanding impact of spirituality is reflected in times of prayer and the children's uplifting and reverent singing of hymns and songs. In turn, this creates a palpable sense of belonging to the Broadhembury church school community. Themes focus on the school's core values promoting their roots in Bible stories exceptionally well. For instance, an act of worship planned on the value of friendship was illustrated in a very effective way by the Old Testament story of David and Jonathan. The good use of drama, involving all present, contributed significantly to the way children recognised the story's message and relevance to their lives at a personal level. Children have an exceptionally good understanding and knowledge of the Bible from worship. Worship is wholly engaging and interactive. All children have opportunities to actively participate, contribute their prayers and lead worship regularly in school or in the weekly worship in church. These aspects of worship are part of the school's own 'Good Samaritan' awards. Opportunities for prayer and quiet reflection, for instance, in the classroom or spiritual garden are integral to the school day. The recent introduction of prayer buddies, when children share ideas for prayer with a partner, have had an outstanding impact. These are good examples of the strength of the spiritual life of the school community and its key role in developing children's personal spirituality. Worship has a strong focus on the Trinity by the lighting of three candles with responses and also at the end with a Trinity 'handshake'. The leadership of worship is exemplary. Planning for worship is comprehensive, detailed and very supportive of all leaders. This ensures that the Christian message is consistent and well understood. Collective worship is continuously monitored by children as well as governors and staff and it is evaluated rigorously which is having a very positive impact on practice.

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 and beyond. The school leadership's strong Christian vision 'Love God and Love Our Neighbour as Ourselves' is the driving force at the heart of the school's success and ongoing improvement as a church school. It is also reflected in the very effective way the issues for development since the previous

inspection have been addressed and the leadership's ongoing drive to improve. The school's Christian values are underpinned by the central value of love, described by St Paul as 'binding all the other values together in perfect unity'. In this way the school's vision and values are linked very closely and are known and understood by the whole community. The school recognises the need to review and deepen the school's vision to ensure that it develops in line with the new Church of England Evaluation Schedule. The highest priority is given to the self-evaluation of the school as a church school. The process is multi-layered and rigorous, involving all members of the school community. This reflects the equal value placed on every single person, whether parent, staff member, governor or child. Staff are a very caring and supportive team who live out the school's vision, exemplifying Christian love in action. The federation is a source of high quality professional development where good practice is shared amongst staff and children. This is evident, for example, from the visits of the children's ethos group to the partner school to meet other ethos groups. The group have also been to visit the same school, with the vicar, to learn about and share their Eucharist service so that it can be developed at Broadhembury. The spiritual life of the school is enhanced considerably by the strong partnerships between the school, diocese and the church. The leadership's visit to the cathedral for the 'Thy Kingdom Come' event had a significant impact resulting in the introduction of prayer buddies. The links with the diocese are strong. Events at the diocese are a source of inspiration as well as professional development for staff which leads benefits for the whole school and federation. The very effective way the school was supported during the recent inter-regnum by the parish church wardens was much appreciated. The role of the executive headteacher on the Parochial Church Council in a similar way is highly valued by governors and parish. These are good examples of the way that the school is integral to the life of the church community. Religious education holds a prominent place in the school curriculum and is a highly distinctive feature of the school's strong Christian character. It is very capably led by a member of the federation staff. The leadership are now supporting a teacher to lead from within Broadhembury. The school meets the statutory requirements for RE and collective worship.

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