



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Bibury Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Bibury,
Cirencester,
Gloucestershire
GL7 5NR

Previous SIAMS grade: Good

Current SIAMS grade: Good

Diocese: Gloucester

Local authority: Gloucestershire

Date of inspection: 8 September 2015

Date of last inspection: 1 July 2010

School's unique reference number: 115611

Headteacher: Suki Pascoe

Inspector's name and number: Maria Wells NS793

School context

Bibury Primary is a smaller than average primary school with 38 pupils on roll. It serves the village of Bibury and surrounding area. Since the last inspection there have been significant changes to staff and the governing body. The headteacher has been in post since April 2014 and the teaching staff and foundation governors were appointed after this time.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bibury Primary as a Church of England school are good.

- The strong leadership and vision of the headteacher provides clear direction for the school that is shared by staff and governors.
- Christian values are rooted in scripture and have a positive impact upon the behaviours and relationships of the school community.
- Relationships between the school, the local church, parents and the local community are strong enabling the school's Christian character to grow and develop.

Areas to improve

- Develop a systematic way of monitoring and evaluating the school's distinctive Christian character by foundation governors in order to hold the headteacher to account and inform strategic planning.
- Strengthen the way the school vision is communicated and promoted so that it can be clearly articulated by all stakeholders.

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

Bibury Primary school is a welcoming church school where the well being of pupils and staff is a priority. Pupils feel happy and safe and are proud of belonging to Bibury School, and staff in turn are proud of their pupils; this ethos and the relationships between staff and pupils are loving and caring and shaped by the Christian character of the school. The school was judged by Ofsted to require improvement in February 2015; the headteacher and governing body have done much to improve teaching and learning and as a result pupils are now making good progress. The school's behaviour policy links behaviour expectations to the Christian character and values of the school. As a result, pupils behave very well and there have been no exclusions. The school follows the Values for Life programme. Pupils understand the values as being distinctively Christian and are able to relate them to stories in the Bible. Pupils also understand how the school's Christian values support their learning; one pupil said 'one of our values is respect; that means we listen to our teacher and each other and that helps our learning.' The Christian character and values contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of the pupils. Pupils are encouraged to think about times when they have demonstrated the value which in turn deepens their own understanding and appreciation of Christian values in action. For example, with the current value of 'Thankfulness' pupils are able to post thank you cards into a box and to add names of other pupils who have demonstrated thankfulness to a 'thankfulness tree.' Pupils' spiritual development is enhanced when they are challenged to think deeply and are posed questions such as 'Who is God?' Pupils are encouraged to be reflective and as a result are able to articulate how the Christian values impact on them as individuals. Following staff training the school has introduced a values led curriculum; consequently staff are developing ways of ensuring that Christian values permeate learning across the whole curriculum. The school looked at its vision with stakeholders in November 2014 and the vision is clearly evident on the website; despite this not all stakeholders are able to articulate the vision in a common way. The vicar who is also a foundation governor has been in place since January 2015 has worked with pupils in designing a slate cross for the school. Pupils have developed with his help the words 'May our lives shine with the light and love of Jesus.' Religious education (RE) makes a positive contribution to the pupils' SMSC development and knowledge and understanding of diverse faiths and cultures.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Collective worship is an important part of daily life at Bibury. Pupils and staff are able to articulate the impact it has on their actions, behaviours and decisions. Each term one of the values from the Values for Life programme is explored through Bible stories; this helps pupils understand the values as being distinctively Christian. Worship takes place in the parish church and is always open to parents and members of the community. As a result pupils see the church as an extension of school and the church and school are mutually supportive to the benefit of both parties. During worship traditional Anglican greetings and dismissals are used by pupils; this is helping them to develop an understanding of church traditions. The school joins in with all major festivals at the church, which are planned together by the vicar and headteacher; this strengthens the relationship between church and school and pupils feel 'at home' in church. One pupil commented 'going to church for worship helps me to be calm and understand what God has done for me.' The Trinity is always referred to during worship thereby developing pupils' understanding; some older pupils are able to articulate the idea of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. One pupil said 'God is three parts and it's called the trinity' and another said 'basically Jesus is God in human form.' Members of staff always attend worship and take turns to lead worship. The worship council, made up of pupils elected by their peers, also plan and lead worship on a regular basis, as do the vicar, an Open the Book team and members of the local Baptist church. The worship council and foundation governors have begun to evaluate the impact of worship. This is at an early stage of development but is already helping pupils to think about what they have learned and how worship impacts on their

daily life. Prayer has a high profile at Bibury; pupils are encouraged to write prayers. A prayer is said at the end of the day and grace is said before lunch; pupils are involved in writing these prayers. One pupil commented 'it's just talking and listening to God; you can be thankful but also pray for others if they are ill.' As a result, pupils have a very good understanding of the purpose of prayer; one foundation governor commented that the pupils' prayers used to be very formulaic but now they are more thoughtful. The use of artefacts from diverse Christian cultures is helping pupils to understand Christianity as a multi cultural faith.

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

The headteacher's strong leadership and vision for the school as a church school promotes an understanding of how distinctively Christian values make a difference to the well being and learning of the pupils. The headteacher is well supported by the governing body. The Ethos committee has discussed the Christian understanding of humanity permeating all areas of school curriculum including maths, geography and other subjects but acknowledge that there is a gap in their evaluation of the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a church school. The governors have focused on monitoring and evaluating school improvement aspects and learning walks by governors always include looking at the environment in terms of a church school. However, evaluation of the school as a church school is yet to happen in a systematic way. Parents feel that the 'Christianity aspect' of the school is very important. They appreciate being kept informed of the current value through the school newsletter. Parents say that the Christian values impact on their children at school and home and reinforce what they expect from their children at home. Parents appreciate the openness of the headteacher and feel that they have more opportunity to be involved with worship and church/school celebrations of major festivals. In-service training and close working with other local church schools is promoting professional development of staff and supports their preparation for future leadership across schools. The school meets the statutory requirements for collective worship and religious education (RE).

SIAMS report September 2015 Bibury Church of England VC Primary School GL7 5NR