



## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### Wraxall Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Bristol Road,  
Wraxall,  
Bristol

BS48 1LB

Previous SIAS grade: Outstanding

Current SIAMS grade: Good

**Diocese: Bath and Wells**

Local authority: North Somerset

Dates of inspection: 7 May 2015

Date of last inspection: 20 May 2010

School's unique reference number: 109237

Headteacher: Ben Tucker

Inspector's name and number: Muriel Griffiths NS268

#### School context

Wraxall Church of England Primary School has 97 children on roll and serves the small village of Wraxall, although many children come from outside the village. The proportion of pupils supported at school action, school action plus, or supported through a statement of special needs is well below average. The proportion of pupils who are eligible for pupil premium is also below average, as is the percentage of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds. The current headteacher took up his post in 2014.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Wraxall as a Church of England school are good

- The strong leadership by the headteacher, together with very good teamwork of governors and staff, provides direction for the school's distinctive character.
- The school has an openly distinctive Christian character and through this, a positive impact on the attitudes, behaviour and achievement of pupils.
- The excellent partnership between the church and the school community is mutually beneficial enabling all to feel part of the extended church family.

#### Areas to improve

- Redefine the school's Christian values and mission statement in a process that involves the whole school community so that there is a consistent understanding of how they underpin the school's Christian ethos.
- Provide opportunities for children to plan, lead and evaluate the impact of collective worship on a regular basis, so that they develop a greater understanding of the place of worship in school life.

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

Wraxall Church of England Primary School is a caring, happy Christian community where all children feel highly valued and special. All members of the school community recognise that the school's Christian values are explicitly embedded in the life of the school. These values have a strong impact on children's good academic achievement and personal well-being. They can be seen in the way that children apply the Christian values of perseverance and commitment to their attitudes to learning. The values are covered in depth through religious education (RE), collective worship and as an integral part of the wider curriculum. They are strongly supported by the example set by adults in school. As a result, relationships at all levels are excellent because of the links with Christian values of friendship, caring and trust. Behaviour amongst all groups of children is good and can be attributed to the way in which everyone understands the Christian values and wishes to live by them. Children are proud of their school, talk enthusiastically about what they are learning and the many extra-curricular activities that are provided for them. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good, effectively supported by the strong Christian ethos, a rich and engaging curriculum, collective worship and RE. The values promote a strong sense of belonging within the school community and the way that they underpin school life enhances spiritual development. Since the previous inspection, the school has developed an area of the school grounds for quiet reflection and children explain that 'it is a place where we can be quiet'. Children have a good understanding of Christianity as a world faith, as demonstrated through their involvement with evolving Tanzania links. Children are active in a number of charitable activities which demonstrate that they want to help to make the world a better place, such as the 'Nailsea Ugandan Water Project'. An area for development in the previous inspection was to increase children's understanding of the beliefs and cultures of people living in the UK. The school has addressed this fully with a number of initiatives, such as the link with a school in inner city Bristol.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**

Collective worship is highly valued and central to the life of the school. This is because it is effective in promoting the school's Christian values. Children recognise its importance and talk about what it means to them. They explain that it is 'a time to come together to worship God' and say that they would like more opportunities to plan and lead worship as it helps them to 'think more about the different Christian values and what they mean in our lives'. Great attention is paid to following the Anglican pattern of worship and children can identify the different elements of worship, such as responses, quiet reflection and praying and understand their importance. They confidently explain how different Bible stories are used to help them understand the school's values and how they can apply them to their everyday lives. This was evident when children listened to the parable of the 'Unforgiving Servant', so helping them to have further understanding of the current value, 'forgiveness'. Collective worship has helped children to link clearly the values to Christ's teaching and His life. Prayer is an important part of the daily life of the school throughout the day. Children know that prayers might be saying 'thank you', 'sorry' or 'please' and have many opportunities to write their own prayers, such as those to put on the Prayer Tree. They have been helped to have an understanding of God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through input during worship and RE from the Priest in Charge. Year 6 leavers attend the Leavers' Services at Wells Cathedral each year. This provides valuable opportunities for pupils to increase their experience of the Christian Church and those who belong to it. Throughout the year, each class has a service in church dedicated to them and led by the Priest in Charge, to which parents are invited, who appreciate opportunities to join their children for worship.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is good**

Children make good progress in RE. Standards are comparable with those of other core subjects. RE makes an important contribution to the Christian ethos through its links with the promotion of the school's values. The school follows the locally agreed syllabus for RE making the learning relevant and linked to other subjects in a way that has meaning for the learners. The quality of teaching and learning is good in RE. The enthusiastic subject leader, supported by staff and governors, ensures that the subject has a high profile in the curriculum. Children's work is closely monitored in order to ensure that appropriate standards are being met. Their knowledge deepens year by year because lessons build on previous learning. In lessons observed during the inspection, skilled questioning was a particular strength, which helped children's understanding and learning, such as when older children were exploring 'Christian Marriage'. In this lesson, children were confident to express their thoughts and ideas. They listened respectfully to one another in an atmosphere of openness and trust. The subject also contributes strongly to children's spiritual development. This was evident as younger children were given a variety of objects to consider from the natural world and were helped to marvel at God's wonderful creation, using words such as 'incredible' and 'awesome'. Children are developing a good understanding of Christianity and learning about a broad range of beliefs of other major world faiths. This understanding has been enhanced by giving children first hand opportunities to visit a number of different places of worship.

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

The commitment of the headteacher, together with the governing body and support of staff, means that the Christian values of the school are clearly articulated and put into practice throughout the school. The current values and mission statement were selected and written some time ago and leaders are aware that the school would benefit from redefining its Christian values and mission statement with the whole school community in order to give everyone involvement and understanding of the Christian distinctiveness of the school. Parents are very supportive of the school's distinctive Christian character. They feel that the strong emphasis on the values help children's self-esteem. Governors are involved exceptionally well in all aspects of the life of the school. The school's self-evaluation process is both rigorous and effective. The school has an accurate picture of its strengths and areas that need further development. Effective development planning is in place to ensure that the school is moving forward as a Church of England school. Governors ensure that collective worship and RE meet statutory requirements. The school's links with the diocese are excellent and benefits of diocesan courses are clearly visible in the way that staff and governors make very effective use of professional development and in considering the school's further development. The school's partnership with the church and local community is strong and of mutual benefit and as a result, has a strong impact on the school. There are many ways in which the school, church and local community work together. For example, children regularly entertain elderly visitors at 'A Time for Tea', members of the church help with Christingle and the Pentecost activity day and Year 6 leavers are presented with a children's Bible, purchased by the school and church. The priest in charge provides much valued pastoral support for the whole school community. The supportive relationships between all members of the school community are clearly rooted in Christian values, providing a good example of a school that is both distinctive and effective as a Church of England school.

SIAMS report May 2015 Wraxall Church of England VA Primary School Wraxall BS48 ILB