



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### West Chinnock Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Scotts Way  
West Chinnock  
Crewkerne  
Somerset  
TA18 7PT

**Previous SIAMS grade: Good**

**Current inspection grade: Good**

**Diocese: Bath and Wells**

Local authority: Somerset

Dates of inspection: 25 May 2016

Date of last inspection: 20 May 2011

School's unique reference number: 123820

Headteacher: Liz Stiddard

Inspector's name and number: Muriel Griffiths NS268

#### 0School context

West Chinnock Church of England Primary School has 53 children on roll with an increasing number of pupils coming from outside the village. The school has been federated with Norton-sub-Hamdon Church of England School since 2010. The percentage of children in Key Stage 1, who receive special educational needs (SEN) support at the school, is below national averages but in Key Stage 2, the percentage is above national averages. The proportion of pupils who are eligible for additional government funding known as pupil premium is below average, as is the percentage of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds. The current headteacher took up her post in 2015.

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

- Christian values are at the heart of the school's ethos and underpin the high quality of attitudes, behaviour and achievement of all pupils and relationships throughout the school.
- A strong Christian ethos values children as individuals and as a result, their talents are given every opportunity to flourish.
- The excellent relationships that exist between the school community and a number of local churches, regularly involved in the life of the school, enhance its distinctive Christian character.

#### Areas to improve

- Establish a more structured approach by the Christian ethos group towards monitoring and evaluation of the school as one with a Church of England foundation in order to create a shared understanding of the school's Christian distinctiveness.

- Share the school's Christian values more fully with the wider school community so that parents have opportunities to share in the promotion of these values.
- Provide more opportunities for children to plan and lead worship so that they are more actively involved, resulting in a greater impact upon them.

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

West Chinnock is a happy, caring Christian community where the children feel highly valued and special. The school's Christian values strongly impact on achievement, relationships, attendance and behaviour. 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 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 the Christian values of friendship, caring and trust. Behaviour amongst all groups of children is of a high standard and can be attributed to the way in which everyone understands the Christian values and wishes to live by them. A 'Values Board' in the school's entrance displays some of the values with children giving examples of their effect on their everyday lives. They say that the school's values 'help us with our work and to get on well with our friends' and they explain that they are Christian values because they come from Christ's teaching. Children with special educational needs or disability are very well supported and staff help these pupils to become more confident and to overcome challenges. Children are very proud of their school and are keen to share information about what they are learning and the many exciting out of school activities that are provided for them, which strongly enhance the school's curriculum. Pupils show care and responsibility for one another. Parents appreciate the way that children support each other and say that the school is 'like a family where everyone looks out for one another'. 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. Opportunities for children to explore the natural world, and their relationship with it, are very well provided for in the 'Forest School' experiences. There are too few planned opportunities for children to learn to enjoy quiet reflection in the school's beautiful grounds. Children are developing a good understanding of and respect for diversity and difference following a visit from 'Navigation Global', a company which helps social cohesion and cultural understanding. Children develop some degree of understanding of the global nature of Christianity through discussion opportunities in RE. The school council plays a big part in the daily life of the school and provides good opportunities for pupils to have a voice. For example, they are currently involved in instigating a better selection of music for collective worship.

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

Collective worship is a special time of day at West Chinnock school; this is because the pattern of worship provides an interesting range of settings, giving children good opportunities to meet Christians from different churches in the local area. Worship for each term is carefully planned by the headteacher and vicar. The chosen themes consider Christian values, Bible stories, religious traditions and special days in the Christian calendar. These themes give children a good understanding of Christian teaching and also, Christian tradition. An area for development in the previous inspection was to 'enable pupils to become involved in the planning and leading of worship'. The school provides opportunities for children to plan and lead worship in services in church. Children take complete responsibility for these services, such as at Christmas and Easter. They write prayers, choose appropriate Bible readings, paint pictures and act out the story from the Bible. However, there are insufficient opportunities for pupils to be regularly involved in this way. They and other members of the school community are also not yet involved in the monitoring and evaluation of worship. Informal discussion with pupils provides opportunities to discover the impact of worship on their lives. However, this evaluation is insufficiently regular and structured and does not involve enough members of the school

community. Good use is made of the church for services marking festivals and a leavers' event when parents and the local community appreciate opportunities to join the school for worship. Children are able to talk about acts of worship that have been special for them such as Bible stories told by the regular visits of the Open the Book team and the vicar. They explain that he helps them to apply the Bible stories to their own lives. They enjoy being actively involved when the Open the Book team invite them to help tell the chosen Bible story. At the time of the inspection, a visitor led worship exploring the value of trust through the Bible story of David and Goliath. Children learned that they could trust in God in their everyday lives and joined in a time of prayer to confirm their trust in Him. They understand that prayer is talking to God and can be 'thank you prayers' and confiding in him when they have worries and concerns. They know that saying grace before lunch every day is a way to thank God for their food. Some older children are beginning to understand God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

The over-riding impression of any visitor to this school is that it is a good church school in which there is a real sense of Christian belonging, identity and involvement. Everyone in the school community recognises these strengths have a strong impact on the ethos of the school. The school strongly reflects the words of its vision: 'As a Church of England School, we work to create a happy, safe and secure school where everyone is valued and helped to develop their talents to the full within a Christian environment'. This vision is clearly displayed around the school, on the website and in the prospectus. The headteacher and governors articulate and strongly promote the school's Church of England foundation. Arrangements for both RE and collective worship meet statutory requirements. The vicar is a school governor who provides good pastoral support for the recently appointed headteacher. Since the arrival of the new headteacher, she has worked with governors to begin considering areas for development in the previous report. New governors are beginning to know their school well and are aware of its strengths and the areas that need improvement. A Christian ethos group has been formed which is well placed to now begin monitoring and evaluation of the school's Christian distinctiveness. There are now appropriate action plans in place relating to this as part of the school's development planning. Parents, the local church and community contribute fully to the life of the school which provides many benefits for pupils. The school also has good links with the diocese, which was very supportive during the appointment of the recently appointed headteacher. They also gave strong support to staff during the time of transition, when the headteacher took up her post. Governors arranged a Church commissioning service for the new headteacher, attended by members of the school and local community. As a result, it is now more evident to the whole school community that the school has a Church of England foundation. Parents have recently been consulted about the school as a Church of England school and they clearly like the fact it has a Church foundation. They especially appreciate the inclusivity and the strong nurturing ethos across the school community, which supports the pupils' good achievement. They are aware of the school's Christian values and feel that they promote good attitudes and behaviour. Since the federation of the school with a local Church of England School, the two schools clearly work together well, making use of shared expertise. Leaders promote strong teamwork with middle leaders from both schools working together. 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 distinctive and effective as a Church of England school.

SIAMS report May 2016 West Chinnock Church of England VC School Crewkerne TA18 7PT

