



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### **Baslow St Anne's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

School Lane

Baslow

Derbyshire

DE45 1RZ

**Diocese: Derby**

Local authority: Derbyshire

Date of inspection: 11 July 2014

Date of last inspection: 1 April 2009

School's unique reference number: 112800

Headteacher: Mrs Marie Clarke

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Gail Goodman 571

#### **School context**

Baslow St Anne's is a very popular, relatively small school, 138 pupils, serving the village of Baslow and surrounding area. The school is one form entry with around half of the pupils attending from outside the natural area. Free school meal entitlement is very low. No children are in receipt of a special educational needs statement. The number of pupils coming from minority ethnic backgrounds is much lower than in most schools. Attendance and punctuality at the school are outstanding. Since the last inspection there have been a number of staff changes, with the current headteacher taking up her post in September 2013.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Baslow St Anne's as a Church of England school are outstanding**

- The Christian leadership of the school is outstanding with staff and governors continually reviewing and developing its Christian vision.
- The sustained, outstanding achievements of all children are underpinned and nurtured by the transforming Christian ethos of the school.
- Children's behaviour is outstanding and the school's Christian character has a significant impact on their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- There are very effective links with the parents, churches and local community.

#### **Areas to improve**

- To increase feedback from all learners in the community on the school's collective worship to further support is appropriate development.
- Extend opportunities for children to lead and plan collective worship and so express their faith directly.

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

The school places great emphasis on Christian values, where staff and children respect each other, are cared for and nurtured to reach their full potential. All members of the school community are aware of these values and can articulate, from their own perspective, how they permeate the rich curriculum and make the outstanding educational provision at this school so exciting. As one parent reported, 'the school is seen to give a rounded education with a strong moral framework', and 'goes from strength to strength'. Indeed, 'just when you think it cannot get any better, it does'. The love, care and security associated with the Christian values enable the children to excel in academic achievement and in their own overall development. Children's behaviour is excellent, and they are developing into well-rounded citizens in their care of each other as exemplified in older pupils caring for younger ones. As well as being explored in acts of daily worship, values are effectively used in the classroom to deal with pastoral issues, and particularly evident in the use of celebratory award in school. The Phd Award in Citizenship encourages children to be polite, happy, positive and helpful, amongst other attributes. Such as, being 'determined', by which a child is seen to be 'unrelenting in school work and completing set tasks'. The impact of this is seen in the exceptionally high results in both KSI and KS2 pupils, including free school meal children, where all pupils met, or exceeded, their targets at all levels in all subjects, in June 2014. Displays are vibrant and colourful in school classrooms, hall and corridors, depicting Bible stories, pupil achievement and class rules, enhancing and celebrating the learning experience. Children have an excellent understanding of how the school's values are an expression of the school's ethos, and can readily relate these to specific stories from the Bible, where Jesus taught us how to lead our lives. Sports and music awards are prevalent, including the Active Mark, Sing Up Silver Award, Music Mark and Health Promoting Schools Award, evidencing all pupils are aware of the importance of good health and enjoy taking part in community events. Recently, a very successful Enterprise in the Community was held in school with Year 6 acting as ambassadors for grandparents and senior citizens who attended. This initiative is used effectively in a practical way by teaching morals and team-work in a business environment. Children participate actively, and with much enjoyment and enthusiasm, in a large number of lunch and after school clubs, such as Choir, P.E., Dance and Art. As the chair of governors explained, 'the school is like a beehive, where children with a purpose put effort into their lives, becoming self aware, and maintaining a good relationship with the community'. Religious Education (RE), which includes other major world faiths as well as Christianity, contributes fully to the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness, in 'embedding our key Christian values and celebrating diversity within our world'. Pupils believe that the best thing about St Anne's school is that 'people are kind to each other', evident in the excellent relationships between all learners.

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

Good quality collective worship is an important focal point of this school community, permeating all aspects of school life. Worship themes, raising inspiration and inspiring spiritual reflection, are used in planning, and full account is taken of the Christian calendar. Children and staff take an active part in this daily act of praise, and speak very positively about collective worship and its significant value in school. They are fully committed in their celebrating the teachings of Jesus which reflect the explicit links between Christian values and all aspects of school life. Even young children appreciate the significant contribution to the school day that worship brings. This is evidenced in their voicing a clear understanding of the importance of forgiveness and kindness. One child recounted the Parable of the Prodigal Son with insight and empathy, whilst another explained that she enjoys the celebratory acts of worship as it makes her 'happy to see others winning awards'. The headteacher, church minister, representatives from the Methodist church and local community, including theological students from Cliff College, lead worship. This enhances the enjoyment and understanding of all

children, who comment favourably on the many visitors and their teachings of God's work. Pupils are well behaved in collective worship and respond thoughtfully to the visual and musical focus provided. They listen attentively, answer questions willingly and participate enthusiastically in song, prayer and reflection. Prayers are written, and spoken, by children and play a large part in the quiet time for reflection in collective worship. Pupils are invited to contribute their own responses to a prayer box in school, the contents of which are taken to Church for inclusion in the Sunday services. This further links the school and church community, where children, staff and parents congregate to celebrate Christian festivals. The local church minister works well in providing a pastoral role to all learners in school, borne out by the excellent relationship with church, as reported by many in the community. Younger pupils say prayers before lunch and at the end of the day. Older children have yet to have the opportunity of more formal prayer and reflection being part of their school day. Evaluation of collective worship is undertaken by governors, but, as yet, does not involve staff, parents or children. Pupils speak enthusiastically about, and take their responsibilities very seriously in, collective worship but would like more opportunities to lead whole school worship.

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

The explicit Christian vision that is articulated well by all learners in school is demonstrated in the warmth of relationships throughout the school population. The headteacher's Christian commitment and love shine out in every aspect of her leadership. Her vision is clear for the school as a Christian school and is reflected in one parent's comments on a written note of thanks. It reads, the school is 'good educationally, but also emotionally, as the children grow up to be confident, independent people'. And further, 'everyone knows each other, leading to high esteem, particularly in preparation for senior school'. The impact of the firm Christian foundation of the school on the whole community is clearly evident in the proactive challenge and support of all staff and governors, and the excellent unity of purpose, as celebrated in a very successful Diversity Festival. Succession planning is now embedded into the culture of the school. This involves identifying and developing the talents of the school staff through training and performance review, for future leadership roles. An energetic and committed body of staff carry the nurturing and inclusive atmosphere forward, evidenced in one parent's view of the school as one with 'a strong moral framework and an understanding of Christian values'. The foundation governors are evidently visible in school, and parents know and recognise the role of 'critical friends'. Governors are highly experienced in monitoring and evaluating performance and achievement, Christian ethos and worship, challenging and supporting the headteacher and staff. Recent training from the Diocese has been used effectively. The headteacher, as subject leader, ensures Religious Education is given its core status within the curriculum, in continually developing the school's Christian ethos. The church minister makes an outstanding contribution to the school, where children speak fondly of his impact, and other visiting clergy, 'in teaching us about the Bible and how people here are kind to each other'. There is an active link with the orphanage in India, and many charities have benefited from the school's generosity and giving nature, often organised by a proactive school council. The school's Christian ethos is very successful in encouraging children to do their best, both in their learning and personal development, as witnessed in a Biblical quotation, on display, from Colossians, 3/23, "Whatever you do – work at it with all your heart".

**SIAMS report July 2014 Baslow St Anne's CE Primary School, Baslow, Derbys, DE45 1RZ**