

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Osmaston Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School

Moor Lane
Osmaston
Ashbourne
DE6 1LW

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese	Derby
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Local authority	Derbyshire
Date of inspection	17 May 2017
Date of last inspection	3 May 2012
Type of school and unique reference number	112847
Headteacher	Jeanette Hart
Inspector's name and number	Louise Patterson (310)

School context

Osmaston Voluntary Controlled school is a small rural primary school with 137 pupils currently on roll. Children are drawn from the village and the surrounding area. The majority of pupils are of white British heritage and come from varied socio-economic backgrounds. The school is situated across the road from the church. Children are taught in five classes, the majority being mixed age. The number of pupils eligible for pupil premium or with additional needs is below average. The current headteacher has been in post since before the previous inspection in 2012.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Osmaston Voluntary Controlled School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

- A very deeply embedded Christian ethos, reflected in all areas of the school, which is firmly rooted in Christian values.
- Excellent relationships exist throughout the school and beyond, reflecting the impact of the outstanding leadership demonstrated by the senior leaders and governors of the school.
- Pupils are confident, extremely well-behaved and developing into well rounded individuals in the knowledge that they are loved by God.
- High quality collective worship, religious education and the strong relationship with the local parish form a solid foundation for the Christian life of the school.
- The school has a clear and accurate picture of itself as a church school. The areas it has highlighted for development are appropriate and the judgements it has made were confirmed during the inspection.

Areas to improve

- Continue to increase involvement of pupils in the planning and delivery of worship.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of the new programmes (Understanding Christianity and Seeing Anew) as they are introduced in religious education and collective worship respectively.

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

The outstanding Christian nature of the school is well demonstrated through the ethos, the treatment of every child as an individual and the quality of the relationships. The school motto 'where everyone is important', within a deeply embedded Christian framework, is being lived out on a day-to-day basis. This, along with excellent academic endeavour, is ensuring that all pupils achieve their full potential as extremely well rounded, confident and spiritually aware individuals. Pupils are offered a wide range of opportunities and age-appropriate responsibilities both within the classroom and around school which is enabling and encouraging them to be reflective and questioning in a safe and understanding environment. The utilisation of the outdoor learning and spiritual space is having a positive, deep and lasting impact on pupils, as are the reflective areas in each classroom. This is demonstrated in the outstanding quality of care and respect for each other and the natural world. Pupils are able to articulate what it means for them to go to a church school, saying, 'if we weren't a church school any more everything would change - everything makes it a church school', 'the Christianity stuff is really special' and 'if we weren't a church school any more you would have to get rid of lots of church stuff.....and that's really lots'.

Data shows that outcomes for pupils are exceeding national expectations. This is an indication of the highly effective support and nurture given to all pupils which is fundamental to the development of every child. The teachers' and teaching assistants' commitment to the school as both an academic and caring, inclusive establishment rooted firmly in Christian values is evident. The emphasis on the personal growth of every individual child means that pupils are developing into well-educated, rounded, and morally grounded individuals through the priority placed on their academic progress but also their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The development of global awareness through the charity work undertaken, the religious education within the school and the visits to inner city Derby enable pupils to gain a deeper understanding of a range of culturally diverse backgrounds. Pupils and staff have benefitted greatly from faith trails around Derby and links with inner-city schools.

Pupils say that they feel extremely safe and well cared for, which contributes to the excellent attendance. There are very high expectations for behaviour, care and love, with staff acting as excellent role models. All staff consistently demonstrate that they care for pupils in the school both in the classroom and outside. This results in pupils who are extremely well behaved and have a very positive attitude towards school. They engage readily with the learning process and are keen to come to school.

Religious Education (RE) is making a significant contribution to the school as a Christian community. It is not only enabling pupils to have a much deeper understanding of Christianity as a world religion, but also other world faiths. Pupils are being well equipped to question and make informed decisions about faith. The school is beginning to undertake elements of the Understanding Christianity resource, but as yet this has not been formally monitored. RE is making a positive contribution to the spiritual growth of pupils which is demonstrated in their ability to articulate difficult religious concepts such as the Trinity and in the writing of thought provoking prayers. The school leadership, including governors, regularly review and evaluate the subject. The subject is being very well led by the co-ordinator.

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

The Christian foundation of the school is very well reflected in collective worship which is enabling both staff and pupils to develop a sense of community and Christian fellowship. Staff regularly both attend and lead the excellent worship. There are ample opportunities for the development of the spiritual dimension within worship with singing, prayer and periods of quiet reflection. A pupil commented that 'everyone loves assemblies' and 'we really like the Seeing Anew because it's good fun'. The school is undertaking to introduce elements of the Seeing Anew worship programme, but as yet the impact of this has not been monitored. Both pupils and staff have enjoyed what they have already experienced and are looking forward to more in the future. The opportunities to take part in elements of worship are taken up with enthusiasm, with lots of volunteers who clearly know the content very well. The RE Singers, who are a group of older pupils, take great pleasure and pride in teaching new songs to the younger pupils. Pupils have an understanding that the teachings of Jesus and Christian values are taught in worship and lived out through their behaviour towards others and the choices they make. The impact of this is pupils who are highly considerate of others and consistently make positive choices. These values and teachings are regularly reinforced through the appropriate use of Biblical content. Pupils and staff are fully engaged in the worship and clearly enjoy the experience, especially the active songs used. Prayer is a regular feature of the school day, with most pupils having an understanding of what prayer is. Prayer is used within worship and also at the end of day. Planning for worship is currently undertaken by the very capable co-ordinator for worship in conjunction with the headteacher and clergy using the Values for Life programme. Pupils are not currently involved in this stage on a regular basis although they would welcome the opportunity to both plan and lead worship in the future. Local clergy deliver worship, which pupils greatly enjoy and their involvement is widening the Christian experience within the school. They say that they enjoy the worship visitors deliver and 'it is really fun'.

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

The very committed and capable Christian leadership and management of the headteacher and governors is making a significant contribution to the success of this outstanding church school. The school regularly reviews the Christian distinctiveness of the school with named governors reporting back to the full governing body about areas such as collective worship and RE and their impact on the school. The self-evaluation of the distinctively Christian nature of the school is accurate, demonstrating that the leadership of the school has a clear understanding of where the school is and how it can continue to develop. The Christian distinctiveness is effectively promoted through the website which gives a very clear indication that the Christian foundation is central to the life of the school, stating that it is 'where everyone is made welcome and God's love is evident'.

Parents speak very highly of the school as a church school. They said such things as, 'the ethos pervades every aspect of the life of the school', 'children come out as caring and compassionate' and 'it being a church school makes every difference'. They say that they are kept very well informed about their children and that they appreciate the 'open door' policy that the school has in place. They said that the staff are always there to talk to, 'they have been brilliant dealing with everything'. The committed and enthusiastic staff team fully support the Christian vision and ethos of the school and there is a real sense of them working outstandingly well together to enhance the excellent education being given to every child. Pupils are encouraged to take on appropriate responsibilities from quite an early age which is helping them to develop a genuine sense of community, conscientiousness and duty. There is an excellent rewards system which runs throughout the school which pupils and parents agree works well to encourage positive behaviours and academic achievement. Pupils feel that they have a voice within the school, especially through the various groups and committees they are involved in. They say that their ideas are taken seriously and are often acted upon.

There is a very effective and mutually supportive relationship with the local parish. There are many contacts both formal and informal, enabling pupils to have a clear understanding of the importance of the church in the life of their school. Rev. Fiona is a familiar figure in school and is an effective spiritual guide on the governing body, along with the other foundation governors. The school has greatly benefitted from the local church being a training post, enabling a succession of trainee clergy to each bring something unique and special to the Christian life of the school. Governors are effective and are acutely aware of their role as leaders of a church school. They take their role as leaders of a Christian community very seriously. Foundation governors have a clear and positive view of the school and their role within it. The school feels that it is extremely well supported by the diocese and takes full advantage of the training provided by them. This relationship with the local Christian community is having a significant impact on the Christian life of the school.

There is potential for future leadership development as the school was designated as a National Teaching School in August 2015. The school is the lead school in the Ashbourne Dove Valley Teaching School Alliance which is a collaboration of schools working together in the Derbyshire Dales and in other areas of Derbyshire to bring about school improvement: we are currently supporting ten other schools. The Alliance also offers School Direct, which is a school-based teacher training programme, to encourage people into the teaching profession. This is a clear indicator of the level of excellence in leadership to be found in the school currently and the potential for future developments.

The school has made significant progress in addressing the areas for development from the previous inspection. There are additional areas for reflection around school which are well used. This has had a very positive impact on the spiritual life of the school. The Christian Club has had a good uptake and continues to develop an understanding of Christianity and spiritual growth. RE and collective worship comply with statutory requirements.

Excellent pupil academic and personal progress is underpinned by the outstanding Christian ethos evidenced in the living out of the values of the Anglican church.

SIAMS report [May 2017] [Osmaston VC Primary School, Ashbourne] [DE6 1LW]