

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bradwell Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School

Church Street, Bradwell, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 9HJ

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Satisfactory
Diocese	Derby
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Local authority	Derbyshire
Name of multi-academy trust	n/a
Date of inspection	15 February 2018
Date of last inspection	30 January 2013
Type of school and unique reference number	I 12803
Headteacher	Geoffrey Wharton
Inspector's name and number	Kerry Palmer (60)

School context

Bradwell Infants is a much smaller than average infant school serving a rural village community and surrounding area. The original Victorian building has been improved and updated to provide a stimulating learning environment for today's children. An independent pre-school is accommodated on school premises. Almost all pupils are of White British heritage. They come from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. There are many more boys than girls currently on roll. The proportion receiving additional pupil premium support or with particular needs matches national averages. Children usually transfer to a local community junior school. The headteacher has been in post since 2009 and there is an established staff team. The parish church of St Barnabas is next door but currently without an incumbent.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bradwell CE (VC) Infant School as a Church of England school are satisfactory

- A hardworking and committed headteacher and staff who together successfully model the school's vision of 'We care, share and learn together', resulting in a school where children work and play cooperatively and enthusiastically.
- Parents and village community who appreciate and actively support the good education children receive and value the school's contribution to community life.
- Well informed and actively engaged governors and local church workers who work with school staff to promote the school's values and commitment to the children's education.

Areas to improve

- Explore strategies to ensure that children in this church school appreciate, and are able to talk about, the fact, that the positive values, so evident in school life, are modelled on the life and example of Jesus Christ.
- Give priority to staff and governor professional development with a focus on exploring recent developments and current good practice in church school collective worship and religious education (RE).
- Incorporate monitoring and review of key elements of Christian distinctiveness in an on-going rolling programme of school improvement which becomes part of the central school improvement plan.
- Seek ways to sensitively encourage parents and the community to value the Christian foundation of church school education.

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

Bradwell Infants is a school where Christian values of service, wisdom and trust clearly drive policy and development. An atmosphere of mutual respect and support is evident throughout the school community. Children are happy, enjoy school and feel safe. This clearly has a positive impact on attendance levels. Concern for the safety of children prompts special events such as E-safety sessions and water safety talks from RNLI. Unique and individual gifts and talents are recognised and nurtured in each child so that all abilities flourish, growing in confidence and enthusiasm for learning. A broad, varied curriculum and enrichment activities provide opportunities for children to develop social and inter-personal skills and data illustrates that attainment is consistently above national averages. Forgiveness and reconciliation drive effective behaviour management. Children have a clear sense of fairness and understanding of right and wrong, consequently, behaviour is exemplary. RE is helpfully organised into blocks of occasional RE days, but its contribution to children's spiritual development and the Christian character of the school is under-developed. Indeed, the biblical roots of the school's core values are not widely understood or explicitly expressed. Children, from this almost exclusively white community, are helped to have a growing awareness of and respect for our multi-cultural and multi-faith society. This includes activities such as visits to the Open Centre in Derby. Empathy for the less fortunate is developing through activities such as the donation of food boxes, at harvest time, to The Archer Project supporting the homeless in Sheffield, Red Nose Day and Guide Dogs for the Blind. The impact is evident in children's conversations about the plight of the homeless and the guide dog visit in October.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

Collective worship is recognised as a welcome opportunity for all the children to meet and celebrate the positive values contained in the school's recently reviewed vision of 'We care, share and learn together'. Children's personal responses are displayed in classrooms and these are lived out throughout the school day and, as parents comment, carried into their lives. However, there is insufficient focus on these gatherings' Christian foundation, not all staff are present at collective worship gatherings to complete the school family and they are commonly known as assembly. Collective worship is held in a central area of the school where Christian artefacts and symbols are well represented. Children enjoy stories and singing, "He came home singing 'Hosannah!'" one mum commented. Regular opportunities for reflection have been introduced but staff recognise the need to develop children's appreciation of the nature of prayer, as confirmed by a pupil survey. Recent initiatives to address this issue include the introduction of a Lent prayer tree which records children's thoughts on ways of helping others. There is little evidence of increased pupil participation in the regular planning or leadership of worship, to promote ownership and enrich engagement, since the last inspection. Children recognise Jesus as important and speak of him as Son of God but have little comprehension of the concept of the Trinity. Families and the wider village community enjoy occasional opportunities to join the school for key Christian festival celebrations, such as harvest, Christmas and Easter, in St Barnabas Parish Church next door. Children play a full part in the presentation of these events which introduce them to important aspects of the church calendar and aspects of Anglican tradition. In a welcome spirit of togetherness, some celebrations are held jointly with children from the pre-school and village junior school. There is an established partnership with the parish and local Methodist Church. Some children attend a weekly after-school club and Messy Church. A Messy Cross, with palm prints from all the children, led the Good Friday parade. A church worker gives regular school support including leading a school workshop. 'Your Kingdom Come', in church, exploring the Lord's Prayer.

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

Headteacher and staff work hard to ensure that every child is safe, happy and maximises achievement. They are well supported by well-informed governors who, through an established monitoring programme, offer focussed support and challenge. The outcome of foundation governor monitoring however, appears to have had little impact on school activity. Joint governor meetings with the village junior school positively support transition and common purpose. Conscious of its role as village school, serving a community of diverse beliefs, Bradwell Church of England Infant School underplays the implications of its Christian ethos and church school foundation. There are detailed school development plans, but current priorities do not extend to aspects of Christian distinctiveness or related professional development opportunities. Little use is made of diocesan training and support opportunities. Networking within the Hope Valley cluster of schools supports school development. Parents are very supportive of the school and its place in village life. Community activity includes involvement with Hope Valley Carers, the annual Christmas Tree Festival and carols for the Bradda Dads' OAP lunch. The children also lead the annual St Barnabas walk, each July, which involves many in the village. Friends of Bradwell Schools, both infant and junior, is a good

example of families working together for the benefit of all the children. There has been limited positive impact from actions resulting from development points raised at the last inspection.

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