

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Broadwas Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Broadwas-on-Teme, Worcester, WR6 5NE

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese	Worcester
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Local authority	Worcestershire
Name of multi-academy trust / federation	n/a
Date of inspection	6 March 2018
Date of last inspection	24 April 2013
Type of school and unique reference number	116870
Headteacher	Karen Smith
Inspector's name and number	Duncan Jones 813

School context

Broadwas Church of England VA Primary School is a small rural school with 99 children on roll. Apart from in reception, classes are taught in mixed year groups. The percentage of children receiving support for special educational needs is below national average, as is the percentage of disadvantaged children. The vast majority of children are white British, with English as their first language. The proportion of children who have joined the school part way through the primary years is much higher than average. The last six months have seen considerable changes of leadership. Two interim headteachers have run the school prior to the appointment of a new headteacher in April.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Broadwas CE Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The school's distinctively Christian values are deeply embedded in every aspect of school life. This means that children and adults know the values well and are guided by them in their lives and actions.
- As a result of the school's Christian ethos, behaviour is of a very high standard and relationships are outstanding.
- Children's enthusiastic involvement in planning, delivering and evaluating collective worship ensures that children enjoy worship and are inspired by it.
- The school's sensitive teaching enables children to value personal prayer and reflection.
- The strong partnership between school, home and church ensures that children's lives are enriched and the school's Christian values reinforced.

Areas to improve

- Embed the current system of assessment in religious education (RE) so that the existing good provision in RE is continually refined and tailored to meet the needs of all learners.
- Ensure that governors' monitoring and evaluation of Christian distinctiveness is focussed on impact as well as provision.

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

Broadwas CE Primary School is a warm, caring Christian community with a well-developed set of Christian values at its heart. These values are rooted in scripture and, because they have been chosen in consultation with all members of the school community, they are widely known and permeate all aspects of life at the school. Central to the school's mission is the phrase 'Living Our Values Everyday' (LOVE), and every opportunity is taken to promote the values and apply them to the children's learning and development. The result is that children understand what the school's Christian values mean to them personally and the relevance they have to their own lives. This impact goes beyond the school and parents feel strongly that the school's teaching of its Christian values complements their own values at home, and helps children to make informed choices. One parent related how when dealing with the behaviour of one of her children, her other child had commented, 'I have to tell you that I did it too – our value is truthfulness'.

Staff at Broadwas have thought carefully about how to develop children's spirituality and have created a definition of spirituality centred on reflection and giving meaning to life. These features are consistently present in the highly effective collective worship, and are recognised whenever they occur spontaneously during the school day. They are also planned for in a range of curriculum subjects.

Recognising that a significant number of children join Broadwas part way through their primary years, the school has developed a culture of inclusion where, through the application of the Christian values, all are made to feel welcome. Much thought is put into teaching children about a variety of faiths and cultures through RE and collective worship. Children are eager to find out about those who may have beliefs different from their own and benefit in particular from visitors to the school and visits to a variety of places of worship. As a result, children have a real respect for diversity and difference in their community and beyond, and any form of prejudice is effectively challenged so that all are warmly accepted regardless of background or belief.

Exemplary behaviour and relationships are a strength of the school. These are the result of the school's effective teaching of its Christian values such as love, respect and truthfulness. If a dispute arises, the Christian values, and all that the children understand by them, provide a vocabulary for discussion and resolution. The inclusive approach that welcomes all children is also applied to academic achievement and pastoral issues. Inspired by the school's Christian values of perseverance and love, staff make every effort to enable all children to achieve well. This results in high standards of attainment and good rates of progress across the school. It also means that children with particular emotional needs are very effectively supported and nurtured.

The very effective teaching of RE, where strong links are made with the Christian values, plays an important role in shaping the school's Christian character. In addition, the Christian character of the school, combined with the quality of RE, has an outstanding impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all its pupils.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is a calm moment in the day when Broadwas comes together as a community. Great value is placed on worship by adults and children. As a result of careful planning, strong links are made between stories told during worship and the school's Christian values. Biblical teaching is particularly effective, noticeably through the involvement of local clergy and the Open the Book team, with the result that children are able to draw messages from Bible stories and relate them to their own lives. Children also have a good knowledge of the Church's year and can relate this to the life of Jesus. They understand the relevance of local Anglican tradition such as liturgical colours and the importance of the Eucharist in Christian life. Imaginative teaching in RE and regular references during collective worship ensure that children have a growing understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Particularly impressive progress has been made since the last inspection in ensuring that children are fully involved in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship. Each week, a new group of children from across the school is chosen at random to work together and prepare an act of worship. Children are excited to be chosen, reflecting the high value children place on worship. The member of staff who co-ordinates worship has provided children with a planning framework for worship which helps them to think carefully about what makes an effective act of worship and also to evaluate the worship previously led by other groups of children. In this way, the quality and impact of worship is constantly improving.

Prayer is also a strength of the school. Children contribute to prayer during collective worship and pray regularly in their classrooms before lunch and at the end of the school day. Children and adults also pray spontaneously. For example, the attractive prayer areas in each classroom are available to all and are well used by the children. Children also routinely say grace before lunch on school trips and at forest school. The result of all this is that children understand the value of prayer and reflection in their lives and seek out opportunities to pray. One child commented that prayer makes her 'happy, calm and thankful for what we have'.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Religious education has a high profile at Broadwas. Teaching is always at least good, with teachers adopting creative and imaginative approaches to their lessons such as the use of art, drama and discussion. Children value the lessons because they know that in dealing with the big issues of life, there are rarely right or wrong answers. Consequently, when they express their opinions, they know that their views will be listened to and valued. Teachers' good subject knowledge and the excellent relationships between adults and children mean that children are engaged by and enthusiastic about RE. Careful planning and a high level of challenge ensure that children use a wide range of skills such as analysis, interpretation and reflection in their work.

Children have a good knowledge of Christianity and are developing an understanding of key theological concepts such as creation, incarnation and salvation. The rich curriculum and the sense of enquiry it develops, helps them to make links between Christianity and other faiths. Pupils enjoy the varied and interesting RE lessons and draw lessons from them about how to live their lives. For example, they describe how important it is to learn about different faiths in order for people to show respect towards one another and to live peacefully together.

The enthusiastic and knowledgeable subject leader carries out very effective monitoring and evaluation, ably supported and challenged by governors. She knows the strengths of her subject well, and consequently she is able to draw up well-targeted action plans which lead to further improvement. She has established an effective system for assessment of RE but, as this is relatively new, the impact cannot yet be seen.

The result of the high quality teaching and leadership is that children make good progress in RE and are achieving standards which are at least in line with national expectations. Children who find work in English and mathematics difficult frequently excel in RE. This is due to the range of approaches used to teach RE and the variety of ways in which children express their understanding. The standard of work produced by the children is another indication of the very good progress made by the school since the last inspection.

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

The caring and committed headteacher communicates the school's Christian vision very effectively to all members of the school community. This is achieved chiefly and most effectively by staff living out the Christian values every day so that children and parents see good examples consistently set. This active demonstration of the vision is supported by an informative website, regular newsletters and the visual impression inside the school building. The caring, inclusive nature of the school ensures that there is a strong concern for the well-being of children. This concern extends to the staff who feel well supported in their work and speak highly of the school's Christian ethos.

In a period of transition, the work undertaken to develop leaders from within the school is very evident. The recent changes in headship have been extremely well managed with the result that school development and improvement has continued and the school's Christian ethos strengthened. Leadership of collective worship and RE is also of a high order. In both these areas the leader has made good use of training and fed this back to other staff with the result that standards are continuing to rise. The school meets the statutory requirements for RE and collective worship.

School leaders know the school well and use their self-evaluation to make improvements to the school's performance and distinctiveness. Governors also carry out detailed monitoring, but when focussing on Christian distinctiveness do not evaluate the impact of the school's distinctiveness on the children.

Broadwas makes some highly effective global links through supporting a range of charities, such as donating laptop computers to schools in Malawi and shipping books to the Gambia. However, these links go beyond compassion to educating children about social injustice and disadvantage. For example, children are highly motivated by work in RE looking at the needs of children in the developing world. One child commented, 'We get given things we don't even need, but these children don't have anything'.

The partnership between school, home and church is a notable strength and parents are very supportive of the school's Christian ethos, and value the contribution both collective worship and RE make to their children's lives. The school benefits greatly from the involvement of members of the church in leading worship. Children are familiar with the church building and the regular services held at the church are an important part of the church's outreach.

Through the committed staff and governors, the encouraging parents and respectful, motivated children, Broadwas fulfils its aim to be a 'happy, caring and welcoming school, firmly rooted in Christian values'.