

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Branton St Wilfrid's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	
Valley Drive, Doncaster DN3 3NB	
Current SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Diocese	Sheffield
Previous SIAS inspection grade	Outstanding
Local authority	Doncaster
Name of multi-academy trust	n/a
Date of inspection	8 February 2018
Date of last inspection	23 May 2013
Type of school and unique reference number	106767
Headteacher	Susie Arnold
Inspector's name and number	Angela Knowles 497

School context

Branton St Wilfrid's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is slightly smaller than the average-sized school situated on the outskirts of Doncaster. The school is a one-form entry school with 207 pupils on role from Reception to Year 6. Pre-school provision is accessed by most children through a number of private nurseries. The majority of children are broadly in line with national expectations on entry to the Reception class. 93% of pupils are White British and 2.4% of pupils identify themselves as speaking English as an additional language. 12% of pupils draw down pupil premium funding which is much lower than the national average of 24%. The proportion of pupils with SEND is increasing and is now broadly in line with national averages. Since the last inspection, school has undergone many significant changes

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Branton St Wilfrid's as a Church of England school are good

- The Christian ethos of the school is underpinned by a clear focus on the school's shared Christian vision and values
- The behaviour of the pupils, which stems from the mutual respect and care they have for each other, is underpinned by school's Christian values.
- The strong effective relationship between the parish and the school.
- Strong governance and leadership, which ensures the development and identity of Branton St Wilfrid's as a Church school with clear succession planning for its future.

Areas to improve

- Further evidence the impact of the chosen Christian values in all aspects of school life.
- Develop the monitoring and evaluation of worship further to show its impact on the whole worshipping community.
- To challenge the more able to extend their understanding of the topics in RE and develop higher order thinking skills.
- For pupils to recognise, experience and understand the wider Christian church.

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

The clear Christian vision and values of Branton St Wilfrid's School underpin its strong Christian ethos. The Christian distinctiveness is evident all around school through the displays and in identified areas for prayer and reflection. The school leaders are working hard to provide the pupils with a consistently good education, outcomes are improving and above the national averages. Relationships at every level are positive. The parents and pupils spoken to were proud to be part of the school family and spoke of the importance of its Christian ethos. Their comments are supported by the responses on pupil and parent questionnaires. The focus for development from the last inspection around linking gospel messages to explicit Christian values has been addressed; all policies include the statement "Living by our Christian Values" with the chosen values listed. Many areas inside classrooms and in shared areas around school are explicitly linked to Biblical teaching. The website reflects the Christian foundation of the school and the importance of Christian values, faith and worship. All stakeholders articulate these values consistently and demonstrate them through very positive relationships, attitudes to worship and learning. The impact of the Christian values, which have been the focus in worship for four terms of the six term cycle, need to be evidenced further. The Christian ethos of the school encourages pupils to be eager and enthusiastic learners: the tracking data over the last two years ensures that they make good progress and are supported when needed. Pupils' achievements are celebrated at every opportunity and they spoke about how they try hard both in lessons and in the way they care about each other. The Discovery syllabus for RE is used consistently across school. This is being enhanced by the introduction of "Understanding Christianity" with training being delivered for teachers by the curriculum lead during this academic year. The pupils spoke knowledgeably about other faiths and gave many examples of what they had learnt from their studies. They felt they would like to visit more places of worship, for example a synagogue and a mosque, to deepen their knowledge and understanding. They were less clear on the differences between Christian Churches. Attendance is around national average and, because of the school's Christian ethos, is monitored closely with support offered to families when appropriate. Pupils behave well, supported by the consistent implementation of the behaviour policy which is clearly linked to the school's Christian values.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The daily act of collective worship is central to the life of the school; it provides opportunities for the whole school family to come together and, once a week, in the more intimate setting of the classroom. Collective worship is carefully planned and the two year cycle of the school's twelve Christian values serve as its backbone. The teachers are supported in the weekly class worship by a booklet produced by the curriculum leader covering each Christian value ensuring quality and consistency. Collective worship is coordinated by the executive head teacher who values and prioritises this time together. There is a weekly act of worship lead by the parish priest and he is actively involved in supporting the school to deliver high quality Collective worship. Themes are focused around the adopted Christian values, the liturgical year and explore the person of Jesus Christ, God as Father and Holy Spirit. Pupils speak confidently, in an age appropriate way, about the Trinitarian nature of Christianity. The Mass is celebrated three times each term, twice in school and once in the church, and a number of pupils are confirmed each year. The parents and pupils value the opportunities to worship together and take part in services in church at important points in the liturgical calendar, for example at Christmas and Easter. Pupils speak descriptively about many of these services and can articulate some lasting memories and special moments they have experienced. Worship is not restricted to one time in the day as seen in the lighting of a candle in a classroom as the lunchtime prayer was said. There are many areas around school where the school community can think and pray. In a shared area, an eye-catching prayer corner not only gives everyone the opportunity to write their own prayers but a number of labelled baskets contain prayers that can be taken away and used. The Jubilate group plan to develop an outdoor area suitable for worship, prayer and reflection. Themes connected to the school's Christian values are also clearly reflected in and enhanced by the RE curriculum, making the links between worship and RE explicit. Thinking and reflection is encouraged at many points of the day. The whole school act of worship observed was themed around the Christian value of perseverance. A display focused the pupils on this value and many pupils had written personal responses to the value. Other displays reflect the twelve Christian values of the school. The worship began with the pupils entering the hall respectfully whilst music played creating a calm atmosphere. Pupils from Year Three took part in the delivery of the act of worship which was led by the executive head teacher. This demonstrated the focus of development from the last inspection had been addressed supported by other plans showing pupils regularly take part in and plan worship. The monitoring and evaluation of worship now needs to be developed further showing its impact on everyone. Pupils enjoy taking part in the leadership of the worship and most of the worshippers responded well joining in responsive prayers and singing. Pupils could make clear links between their own behaviours and the Christian values covered during worship.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

The teaching of RE is important throughout school and is carefully timetabled and planned. The school follows the locally agreed syllabus for RE, 'Discovery RE' which is becoming embedded across school. Staff have attended regular training delivered by the, relatively new to post, curriculum leader. She is also attending diocesan training for the 'Understanding Christianity' resource to be delivered alongside the adopted RE scheme. Pupils say they enjoy RE and learn a lot from it. During the lessons observed as part of the inspection, pupils were engaged and showed an enthusiasm for the subject. The whole school priority for developing the quality of writing across the curriculum is evident in the quality of and type of work produced. Pupils' behaviour for learning was good because they enjoy RE as an interesting core subject and because of this no learning time is lost. Challenge to think deeper for the more able is an area to be developed. The teachers demonstrate secure subject knowledge. The quality of teaching and learning is in line with that across other subjects and is improving. RE lessons are observed as part of enquiry visits and the subject leader also undertakes regular work scrutiny and drop-ins to monitor the quality of and consistent approach to RE teaching across school. The link governor is also involved and carries out monitoring visits. Work scrutiny and observations carried out during the inspection supported the school's self-evaluation that standards are as high as in other subjects and most children are making at least good progress. This demonstrates that the focus from the last inspection around the monitoring of RE has been fully addressed. The school has developed a robust and consistent assessment process for RE linked to the scheme of work and will now be able to accurately measure pupil progress year to year and eventually over time. The marking of work follows the school's marking policy which includes pupil's self-assessment of learning against objectives. The teaching about other faiths is well established and the pupils show a good understanding of what others believe. Their understanding of the wider Christian church is less secure. Pupils have a good knowledge of Bible stories and can relate them to which key messages they have for Christians, linking them to the school's Christian values.

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

The Christian distinctiveness of Branton St Wilfrid's Primary School as a Church of England school is explicit. Its Christian values run through every part of the school's life and act as its heartbeat. The school website articulates the vision and the values of the school and ensures that this school is clear about its church school status. Since the last inspection the leadership team in school has changed a number of times, as have the majority of the staff. Governors have taken many difficult decisions to stabilise the team and to make sure there are high expectations of all and the school's Christian ethos is maintained and developed. The governors are involved, knowledgeable, challenging but yet supportive. Senior leaders ensure the school is an integral part of the community living out their focus on Christian values; an example of the value respect is the WOW initiative encouraging children and parents to park further away from school. Links with the church and its clergy are valued, strong and have a significant impact in school. Father Andrew is a regular visitor to school not only to lead worship but to support school improvement and be accessible. Academic standards in school are above national average but the leaders are not complacent and know there is still much to be done to ensure everyone reaches their full potential. They work hard to improve outcomes for pupils, supported by the school's clear Christian values and ethos. The leadership of collective worship and RE ensures statutory requirements are met, self-evaluation is thorough and informs future planning. Staff development and training has ensured that the scheme for RE is in place and followed, making the teaching of RE progressive and consistent across school. The school sees itself very much as a Christian family, willing and able to offer adults and pupils caring support during challenging times. The pupils have opportunities to influence leadership decisions, for example through the school council. The pastoral care of the whole school family is rooted in Christian love. School works hard to ensure the links with parents develop further. Parents feel welcome and comfortable to approach staff with any concerns. All members of the school family are positive about the school.

SIAMS report February 2018 Branton St Wilfrid's Church of England VA Primary School Doncaster DN3 3NB