



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Bonnors Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

High Street
Maresfield
East Sussex
TN22 2EG

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Chichester

Local authority: East Sussex

Dates of inspection: 17 May 2016

Date of last inspection: 18 November 2009

School's unique reference number: 114511

Executive Headteacher: Anne Radford, Head of School: Nicki Kaufman

Inspector's name and number: Richard Dyer 513

School context

Bonnors CE Primary School is a small, popular school on the edge of Maresfield serving the local community. The majority of its pupils are white British from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. The school federated with a neighbouring church primary school in 2015 and is now led by the federation's executive headteacher and Bonnors head of school.

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

- The school's Christian values are securely embedded in all aspects of the school and impact very positively on the school's provision and outcomes for pupils.
- Collective worship plays a highly significant and central role in the life of the school in promoting the school's Christian values and ethos.
- The school has strong, successful and effective partnerships with parents, the local church and the wider community.

Areas to improve

- Integrate the developments identified in the school self-evaluation document into the School Development Plan, to ensure cohesive development of the school's distinctiveness as a church school.
- Develop parent and community understanding of the link between the school's Christian values and the life of the school to enable them to understand better the school's distinctiveness as a church school.

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

Bonnars is an extremely friendly, caring school where distinctive Christian characteristics, based on Christian values, are firmly embedded into the life of the school and contribute very strongly to the children's well-being and overall learning. They are clearly expressed visually in displays throughout the school and are well known and clearly articulated in a Christian way by the school community, especially staff, governors and pupils. Staff talk passionately about how "Jesus is at the heart of everything we do" and children talk enthusiastically about the values and their meaning. For example, one child explained how "God tells us we must respect all living things", while another stated the Bible teaches us "we must stand up for justice for those people who are unable to". Parents also talk passionately about the school's Christian ethos and how strongly care and respect are promoted. The values are successfully integrated through acts of worship, social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) development, the wider curriculum and in the daily life of the school. Religious education strongly promotes the school's Christian values and characteristics effectively. Children can clearly articulate stories from the Bible, the life of Jesus and the Christian message, as well as showing a developed respect and understanding of religious and cultural diversity (a development from the previous inspection). The impact of the values is evident in the high quality of relationships between members of the school community. Teachers clearly model the school's values in their interaction with the children and each other and pupils display exemplary behaviour and a caring, respectful ethos which celebrated by the awarding of "Random Acts Of Kindness" certificates. The impact can also be seen in the high level of quality provision of care and support provided by the school for all pupils including vulnerable children. This care and support also extends to parents. All children are made to feel they can achieve their best and the school's quality provision based on its Christian values impacts very positively on pupil achievement.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is central to the life of the school and the promotion of its Christian values and ethos which link to everyday life and learning in the school. Staff willingly attend and participate alongside children, because they too appreciate its value. One member of staff commented that it reinforced her "realisation of personal spirituality and what's fundamental to me". Worship is distinctly Christian with a strong focus on Christian values and biblical material. Children understand and can articulate the central position of Jesus and the Bible in the Christian faith and an age-appropriate understanding of the Trinity, which is imaginatively explained in worship. Worship is led by various members of the school community including staff, pupils and the local clergy, who use a variety of media and resources to make worship engaging and relevant to all. Singing is lively and frequently includes actions which everyone enthusiastically joins in with. Prayer and reflection, led by children as well as adults, forms a meaningful part of worship which extends into the life of the school with prayers said at key times of the school day. This is complemented by 'Prayer Areas' in the hall and classrooms where pupils read and write prayers independently. Staff too, appreciate the centrality of prayer and come together to pray at significant emotional moments in the life of the school, e.g. when a child or staff member need God's support. These opportunities for prayer contribute significantly to the spiritual development of the school community. Worship is thoroughly planned to be inspirational and meaningful to the children, and takes place in the local church at key times in the Anglican and school year. The key elements of worship are used very effectively to create an appropriate atmosphere and include displaying the cross, a lighted candle and the saying of prayers and responses. There are securely embedded systems for the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship by staff, governors and the pupils (a development from the previous inspection). This has led to greater pupil involvement in the planning and delivery of worship, resulting in worship that is very relevant, meaningful and engaging to the children. Parents are welcomed to attend the worship once a fortnight which they clearly appreciate and enjoy.

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

All levels of school leadership consistently and confidently articulate the school's Christian vision and values. Its positive impact is seen in the exemplary pupil behaviour, high achievement, and quality of pastoral provision. There are well developed monitoring and evaluation strategies in place, including opportunities for pupil and parent feedback. The leadership use these accurately to evaluate the effectiveness of the school's provision and performance, and correctly identify development needs. Imaginative strategies are applied to address these development needs, e.g. action research projects by staff in collaboration with other schools. This has resulted in effective changes to curriculum thinking and planning linked to the school's Christian ethos and vision, which are delivering clearly measurable improvements to pupil attainment. The governors' ethos committee is very pro-active in its involvement with the school, including monitoring and evaluation. Consequently governors know the school well and both support and challenge the executive headteacher and head of school. Leadership at all levels is actively encouraged throughout the school. High priority is given to promoting opportunities for staff to prepare for future leadership in church schools, and staff willingly take advantage of these opportunities. There are strong links with the Diocese, the partner federation school and other schools in the local authority for training and support. Staff have attended the Diocesan 'Moving Forward with Christian Distinctiveness' course, and the executive headteacher and head of school attend Diocesan conferences and Quiet Days. There are also strong links with the local church, local community, and wider world community through the school's charitable works and linking of the Christian message to global issues. Strong relationships exist with the parents who speak very highly about the school and its provision. They are especially proud of the school's caring ethos which they recognise and appreciate extends to parents when needed. The school more than meets its statutory requirements for RE and worship.

SIAMS report May 2016 Bonners CE Controlled Primary School Maresfield TN22 2EG