

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Brompton-on-Swale Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Brompton Park. Brompton-on-Swale, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 7JW

Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese	Leeds
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Local authority	North Yorkshire
Date of inspection	12 January 2017
Date of last inspection	November 2011
Type of school and unique reference number	Voluntary controlled 121481
Headteacher	Michael White
Inspector's name and number	Nigel Castledine (652)

School context

Brompton-on-Swale CofE Primary has increased considerably in size since its last inspection. The school is situated in a rural setting, serving a predominantly White British local community.

The number of disadvantaged pupils is below average, as is the number of pupils with special education needs or disability.

There is a much higher percentage than average of pupils joining and leaving the school each year because of the proportion of pupils from armed forces families connected to nearby Catterick garrison.

The school became a National Teaching School in 2013. It now supports the Swaledale Alliance of around 60 schools across the region.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Brompton-on-Swale as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Highly effective distributed senior leadership ensures that the school's pervasive Christian distinctiveness is well supported by a strong emphasis on upholding the chosen Christian values.
- The strength of the school's Christian values underpins all aspects of school life, inspiring the pupils' to strive for academic success, guiding their spiritual development and enriching their experiences of faith.
- The pupils' excellent behaviour, learning attitudes and attendance are all influenced by the positive impact of the school's Christian beliefs.
- Positive, caring and mutually beneficial relationships between all members of the school community ensure all are treated with thoughtful respect and made welcome within the life of the school.

Areas to improve

- Extend pupils' involvement in worship to include regular and appropriate occasions for them to independently plan and lead all its aspects.
- Provide learning opportunities within worship and RE that deepen pupils' understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and so inform their perceptions of the significance of the Holy Trinity.

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

'Having the courage to shine' is the chosen motto of this vibrant Church of England school. It is upheld by all members of the school community in their commitment to the highest standards and in their positive attitudes to school life. The motto also reflects the impact of the school's chosen Christian values which permeate the life of the school. Comprising reverence, wisdom, thankfulness, humility, endurance, service, compassion, trust, peace, forgiveness, friendship, justice, hope, creation and koinonia, they emphasise the importance of the teachings of Jesus. All aspects of school life are influenced by them. A parent stated, 'Faith is not an add-on extra at this school. The school's faith ethos encompasses all that happens here.'

Christian values are clear in the pupils' positive learning attitudes and their acceptance of the need for commitment to persevering and working hard. One Year 6 pupil observed, 'When I keep trying at things I find hard, I think I am showing endurance and wisdom.' The school's Platinum Pupil awards for all in Year 6 provide an excellent opportunity for these pupils to reflect on and celebrate their understanding of Christian values and their application within daily life.

High attendance figures show that pupils enjoy being in school and find their learning exciting. This is borne out by the high satisfaction ratings for school in a recent survey of all pupils. Koinonia, a sense of Christian fellowship and sharing, is very clearly part of the school's welcome and nurture for and the removal of any barriers to learning. Koinonia is the foundation of the school's effective systems for the many new pupils from service families that arrive at the school. It ensures a smooth and happy settling-in to school and community life for both the new pupil and the family.

Respectful and caring pupil behaviour is almost universal, with pupils offering Christian service to others in the many positions of responsibility available to them. The pupils also think of the needs of others with Christian compassion shown in their enthusiastic support for charitable giving to local, national and international good causes. Bullying is a rare occurrence and both parents and pupils feel that it is sorted out speedily with Christian compassion and care.

An outcome of the last inspection is the spiritual garden which offers pupils a quiet and peaceful place to pray and reflect at a time of their own choosing. Its significance in the life of the school is exemplified by its selection as the setting for the school's annual Remembrance Day ceremony.

Multi-cultural days at the school ensure that pupils gain an understanding of other cultures, life-styles and beliefs. The impact of Christian values is clear in the responses of pupils to a recent day focussed on refugees. Pupils were certain that compassion, trust, peace and hope along with endurance, wisdom and friendship were all needed to help these people. One pupil showed her empathy in the comment, 'It made me feel heart-broken and depressed they had to leave their homes'. Pupils gain an understanding of Christianity as a multi-cultural global faith within their religious education (RE) learning, with a focus on contrasting faith communities, which helps to develop their respect for diversity. Because of the faith ethos of the school, RE is a very popular and significant curriculum subject. It enriches the pupils' understanding and experiences of Christianity and other major world faiths. RE also supports the development of pupils' spirituality, connecting this with prayer and worship in vivid, inspirational ways.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Daily collective worship brings the school community together to explore the Christian faith within their worship of God. It also ensures that all present gain a deeper understanding of how and why Christian values are important in their lives. This Bible-based worship amplifies the connection made between the school's chosen Christian values and the teaching and life of Jesus Christ. Worship is inclusive in its aims to enhance the experiences of those of faith, no faith and the curious, allowing all to choose their own level of response and engagement. Recent worship moved a Year 2 child to remark, 'God really loves us in every single way!'

The worship co-ordinator and foundation governors ensure that themes are carefully planned to include a weekly refreshing of a chosen Christian value, whilst also following the Christian year and celebrating its seasons and festivals. Worship always includes teaching, praise, reflection and prayer, and participation by the pupils is a regular and eagerly anticipated feature. The reverence of the pupils creates an exceptional atmosphere in which the worship becomes a very appropriate response to God's presence. A focal point is provided by the holy table which is covered with a drape matching the liturgical colour of the Christian season. On it are placed a cross and a candle, lit during times of prayer. These include use of the school prayer, the Grace and the Lord's prayer and are augmented by the reading of pupils' own personal prayers, and a time of quiet reflection.

Worship is also part of the strong connections between the school, parish and St Paul's church in the village. A dedicated group of church members, the Open the Book team, deliver engagingly vibrant Monday worship each week in school. Other adult worship leaders include the vicar, a local Baptist church pastor, the teaching staff and occasional visitors. The worship is enhanced by the pupils of the Open the Book support team who help with readings, prayers and drama, which all support the engagement of the whole school. This group are also responsible

for the regular evaluations of the impact of worship from representatives of those present which inform future worship planning. However pupils do not yet plan and deliver independent school worship without adult guidance. Prayer and reflection are not confined to times of collective worship, but also occur several times during every school day. Each classroom has a faith focus area which is available for reflection and prayer at any time. The well-used prayer wall in school also enables anyone to add their own personal prayers to the many on display.

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

Since the last inspection, the school has transformed and reinvigorated its Christian ethos. The headteacher, senior leaders and the governing board have fulfilled the action points of the last inspection by creating a strong and pervasive Christian distinctiveness throughout school life. Methodical, well-structured management and governance systems ensure that this rich Christian distinctiveness supports and enhances the quality and impact of teaching and learning as well as the care and nurture of every pupil.

Whilst there was a dip in the levels of pupil achievement in 2016, the school continues to place great emphasis on the highest standards in all curriculum areas. The school, as a National Teaching School, supports the educational provision and staff expertise of a significant number of schools in the region as well as the school's own staff.

A beneficial outcome of this work has been its Christian leadership course, which supported future leaders of Church of England schools. This was attended by the school's deputy head.

Links with the diocese have included its senior school adviser working within the Teaching School Alliance as well as supporting the school. The diocesan end of year Leaver's service in Ripon cathedral, is a very special event for all Year 6 pupils.

Parents value the pastoral care for all pupils and speak favourably of the impact of the faith ethos of the school. One parent commented, 'I love it that my daughter is learning the Lord's prayer and Bible stories and being involved in the Open the Book assembly'. The recent parental survey outcomes emphasise the helpful attitudes of all staff. This was summarised by a parent, 'Problems aren't left. They are sorted promptly.'

The much-respected vicar, who is also a school governor, is very involved in the life and worship of the school, which enables her to fulfil both a teaching and pastoral role for school families, staff and pupils.

Links with the community, parish and local church are mutually supportive. Space constraints meant that only sections of the school can worship at any one time in St Paul's church along with their families at major festivals. However during their time at the school, every child is able to experience church worship on a number of occasions. The faith outreach of the school and church together is witnessed in the Easter Labyrinth in school that enables the village community to experience the story of Easter in the labyrinth's journey of faith discovery and personal reflection.

SIAMS report January 2017 Brompton-on-Swale Church of England Primary School, DL10 7JW