



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### **Bishop Purglove CofE Voluntary Aided Primary School**

St John's Road  
Tideswell  
SK17 8NE

#### **Diocese: Derby**

Local authority: Derbyshire

Dates of inspection: 13 November 2014

Date of last inspection: 8 December 2009

School's unique reference number: 107738

Acting Headteacher: Lynne Kilford

Inspector's name and number: John Horwood 177

#### **School context**

This is a smaller than average primary school with 110 pupils. Nearly all pupils come from White British backgrounds. Most pupils are taught in mixed-age classes. Year 6 pupils are taught as a single year group. The proportion of disadvantaged pupils is below the national average. The proportion of disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs is below average. There have been significant changes in staff in the last 15 months. The Acting headteacher took up her post in September 2014.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bishop Purglove CofE Voluntary Aided Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding**

- The headteacher, staff and governors are excellent role models. They demonstrate a strong Christian faith and determination that every child should succeed by ensuring equal opportunities and the absence of any discrimination within this outstanding school.
- Christian values, such as love, peace and care are promoted throughout the school. This enables pupils to become mature, sensible and caring individuals whose behaviour is outstanding.
- Pupils respond to the excellent school Christian ethos extremely well and this has a very positive impact on all aspects of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- There is a strong and effective partnership with the church community which contributes greatly to pupils' understanding of Anglican traditions.

#### **Areas to improve**

- Embed the recently improved system for monitoring pupils' progress in their knowledge and understanding of religious education (RE) into all year groups.

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

Christian values permeate everything within the school and are promoted by the strong faith of the school leaders. These values are typified by the care and love that is apparent throughout the school and are supported by the vibrant displays of pupils' work, Christian artefacts around the school and by the curriculum. Their impact is exemplified by pupils' outstanding behaviour. The school's Christian character is reflected in the friendly ethos within the school and in the pride pupils have in the school. The headteacher leads by example in ensuring that the care and well-being of pupils is of the highest standard. She meets and greets parents and pupils at the bottom of the school drive in the mornings and has developed excellent relationships with parents. This contributes to the excellent school/parent partnership. It develops trust and respect between the school and families who have welcomed having a full-time headteacher for the school and now have nothing but praise for the school. A typical comment from a parent was 'everything about the school is great'. Pupils' achievement is celebrated within the Friday celebration assemblies. Christian fellowship is demonstrated by the school and parents working together to encourage good attendance. Every pupil is valued as an individual and this ensures that pupils of all abilities are able to achieve well. Pupils say they learn well because they enjoy lessons. This is shown by the high achievement. Last year pupil attainment at the end of Year 6 was lower than previous years but this is not reflected in the current year groups. All adults set very good examples to pupils and this promotes mutual respect. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding for their age and pupils get on very well together. Pupils learn and understand about Christianity being a multi-cultural world faith and about the links to other faiths. The curriculum develops pupils' awareness of diversity very well and prepares them well for their future life.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Collective worship is seen as a key part of the day that pupils look forward to. The pupil worship group enthusiastically prepare the room and regularly lead the worship. All teachers attend worship and pupils and adults participate fully. Christian values are extremely well promoted with adults being excellent role models. The theme of peace and understanding promotes a strong understanding of racial harmony across the world. Worship has a strong focus on Jesus and on Bible stories. Pupils understand how this helps develop their values. Pupils' thankfulness is demonstrated by their enjoyment of singing which is of high quality and in which they eagerly join. During worship pupils behave exceptionally well and mutual respect permeates the whole community. The impact of worship is shown by pupils' ability to talk confidently about the wide range of experiences they have of worship. This involves a good range of visiting speakers including the vicar, the minister from another local church and the 'Open the Book' group. Special services are held in the church and these, in particular, help pupils have a good understanding, appropriate to their age, of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A wall display in the school hall supports this by promoting the term 'The Trinity'. Daily worship is very well planned and the school benefits from a large hall where all can worship together. Worship has an excellent impact on teachers who then develop the themes further during the day. Prayer is seen as part of daily life and opportunities for prayer/reflection take place before lunch and at the end of the day. This ensures that pupils benefit from a range of settings and extend their knowledge of Anglican traditions. Collective worship is coordinated by the headteacher in liaison with the foundation governors and staff in accordance with the collective worship policy. Pupils monitor and record the impact of collective worship which is then reviewed by leaders. Pupils and adults join in collective worship with enthusiasm and this supports ongoing excellent relationships. The impact of the worship is demonstrated by the way pupils adopt Christian values and actively support charities both local and further afield.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is good**

Attainment levels at the end of each key stage are generally above average. This is because learners are motivated and fully engaged during lessons. They all make good progress from their individual starting points. The school promotes a 'can do' culture and this is shown in pupils' good standards of presentation and written work. Pupils' literacy skills are also helped by the high quality marking in RE. Teaching is good overall with those teachers new to the school rapidly and enthusiastically developing their skills. RE is seen as an important subject in the school and the new curriculum provides for pupils of all abilities. The dedicated and enthusiastic subject leader is well-trained and is introducing a new assessment system to help monitor pupils' progress. This is raising standards but is not yet in use in all year groups. Progress of individuals and groups is monitored and extra help provided where needed. The subject leader ensures that teachers, other leaders and governors are aware of current developments in the subject and about how to raise standards. He ensures that the teaching of Christianity is effective whilst also developing pupils' understanding of other faiths and cultures. He supports staff with any RE issues, discusses lessons and carries out work scrutiny. The curriculum reflects the Derbyshire Agreed syllabus and pupils all have at least one RE lesson each week. There is a good balance of learning activities which make a significant contribution to Christian values and to pupils' outstanding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As a result of the good and improving provision, pupils are able to talk confidently about religious concepts and to ask questions and 'debate' issues with their teachers. Pupils really enjoy the more practical activities they have in their RE lessons.

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

The headteacher, the vicar and the foundation governors are passionate about the part that Christianity plays in supporting every pupil both academically and with their life skills. The excellent partnership between the school and the Christian community extends beyond the local church to include other denominations locally. Leaders have revised the school mission statement 'Reach Higher, Think Deeper, Love Wider' to define the strategic direction of the school. Strong links to both the church of St John the Baptist and Fountain Square church help pupils gain an understanding of Anglican traditions and also to appreciate the similarities and differences between the two churches. Church members provide excellent support to pupils' spiritual development by running the well-attended 'fish club' on a Monday lunch time. As part of the increasing involvement with the church the school fayre is, for the first time, being held in the church on a Saturday. This enables many more families and friends to attend than were able to on a school day during the daytime. It also enables pupils and the church community to work together. Leaders show excellent concern and care for pupils and their families to ensure that pupils can achieve to their full potential. During the recent period when the school 'shared' their headteacher with a nearby school parents showed concern about the provision. Since the appointment of their own acting headteacher the parents are showing overwhelming appreciation of everything the school provides. She leads by example in promoting the school as a church school where Christian values have led to high performance in all aspects of pupils' academic and personal development. The self-evaluation of the school as a church school is accurate and is fully supported by the inspection evidence. Leaders have a secure and accurate understanding of the school's performance and distinctiveness. The issues from the previous inspection have been addressed. Both RE and worship meet the statutory requirements. Pupils show a strong commitment to Christian stewardship by supporting a range of charities local, national and international. This helps them understand the needs of others in a wider cultural context. The foundation governors are actively involved with the school and help pupils understand about wisdom and service. The focus on developing future potential leaders of church schools is exemplified by the current acting headteacher being trained and promoted from within the school. With the support of the diocese, all teachers are given opportunities for training.

SIAMS report November 2014 Bishop Pursglove CofE VA Primary School, Tideswell, SK17 8NE