



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Bartley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School

Winsor Road

Bartley

Southampton

S040 3HR

Diocese: Winchester

Local authority: Hampshire

Date of inspection: 09 July 2015

Date of last inspection: 19 July 2010

School's unique reference number: 116338

Headteacher: Miss Karen Stonehouse

Inspector's name and number: Mr Chris Williamson 290

School context

Bartley Church of England Junior School has 364 children on roll. Children attend from the local area. 12% of the children have Special Educational Needs which is below average, 3% of the children are from a range of ethnic minority groups and 12% of the children receive pupil premium funding. There have been a significant number of changes in teaching staff, including a new headteacher and deputy, since the last inspection. A new team vicar has also joined the governing body. The school has achieved the silver eco award. The school is a strategic partner of the ETC (Excellence Transformation Collaboration) teaching alliance.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bartley Junior School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Deeply embedded Christian values have a significant impact on children's academic achievement and personal development
- Christian love underpins outstanding relationships between all members of the school community
- Children's active involvement in prayer and reflection promotes their spiritual development
- A collaborative style of leadership and management promotes the distinctive Christian character of the school

Areas to improve

- To continue to monitor and evaluate the impact of Christian values on school life
- To continue to develop the use of the local church to enhance the opportunities for children's spiritual development
- To continue to develop children's understanding of diversity and difference, both within Christianity and in other faith communities

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

Christian values are deeply embedded throughout the life of the school. The school's overarching key value 'Love for oneself and others' embraces the daily life of the school. This promotes a particularly caring and inclusive school community, where all individuals feel valued. Each year group explores a specific value in depth throughout the year. These are friendship, trust, thankfulness and responsibility. The distinctively Christian nature of these values is made clear and children are enabled to link them to their own lives. The outstanding relationships between all members of the school community are rooted in these values and are central to the success of the school. This is evident in the mutual respect, appreciation and compassion demonstrated between all members of the school community. This Christian ethos of the school has a significant impact on children's good academic achievement. Children's positive attitude to learning, combined with the high priority given to the development of teaching and learning, means that this is an improving school. Significant additional support is provided for vulnerable children and achievement data shows that this is effective, particularly for the older children. The Christian ethos of the school also has a significant impact on children's personal development. Children's behaviour is outstanding. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is given a high priority. Children experience memorable learning experiences and staff provide positive role models based on the Christian values of the school. Children are able to express their understanding of spirituality and they have regular opportunities to engage in experiences which develop a personal spirituality. Children experience and learn about a wide range of diverse communities through many aspects of school life. The school rightly recognises the need to continue to develop children's understanding of diversity and difference both within Christianity and in other faith communities. Children value the opportunities to spend a whole or half day to explore a theme in religious education (RE). These opportunities make a significant contribution to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development as well as to the Christian character of the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is regarded as central to the life of the school and is valued by children and adults. Children have a positive attitude to collective worship, they enjoy it and participate with enthusiasm. Collective worship is distinctively Christian. High expectations, both from the worship leader and from the children, were particularly evident in the collective worship observed and children were challenged to think deeply. Worship themes are developed throughout the week, ensuring that children have the opportunity to discuss and understand the message and how it makes a difference to them and to others. Class collective worship has been reintroduced recently to provide an additional opportunity to reflect on the weekly theme. Children say that they value this. Since the last inspection the school has made effective use of strategies to monitor and evaluate collective worship. This has enabled the school to make changes in collective worship which have had a direct impact on the school community. This year the school has given a high priority to improvements based on feedback from the children. For example children say that they particularly value the increased opportunities this year for interaction and engagement and are keen for this trend to continue. Children say that they now have a better understanding of the messages from collective worship and how these affect their daily lives. Children also value and enjoy the increased opportunities to lead collective worship since the last inspection. The school has now adopted a common approach to collective worship which means that all the key elements of worship are always included. Collective worship includes references to the Bible and children are helped to see the relevance of these to their own lives. Worship, together with the study of Christianity in RE, enables children to develop their understanding of Jesus Christ and his teachings, as well as the main Christian festivals. Many opportunities exist for prayer and reflection, both in collective

worship and in the wider school day. Children enjoy creating and sharing their own prayers. For example each class takes turns at preparing a prayer for the theme of the week. Children also value the greater opportunities that are now provided in collective worship for them to be able to reflect. Members of the local clergy regularly lead worship, often using Bible stories to make the message accessible to the children. The school rightly recognises that children's experiences of worship would be enhanced by broadening the range of worship leaders from other Christian traditions.

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

The school's vision is rooted in distinctively Christian values. The promotion of the school's distinctive Christian ethos has been a key priority in the development of the school in recent years. A collaborative style of management has contributed significantly to the success of this. The vision statement 'Our Christian values will foster love for ourselves and for each other' is lived out on a daily basis. The school's Christian vision underpins its high expectations for behaviour, attainment and attendance. Children have a positive attitude to learning and to their relationships with peers and adults. All stakeholders are involved in monitoring the impact of the school's vision. Areas for development have been identified and improvements made. These have impacted on children's academic and personal development. The school rightly acknowledges the need to continue to monitor and evaluate the impact of Christian values on all aspects of school life in order to maintain a cycle of continuous improvement. The school successfully uses strategies that make effective use of opportunities for the development of staff and governors as leaders in church schools. The leadership of collective worship is given a high priority and this has led to improvements. The teaching of RE is at least good with some outstanding elements. Children benefit from RE being taught in themed days. The concept led approach enables children to be engaged and motivated in RE and they are very keen to talk about what they are learning. The school enjoys productive links with the local church. The two local clergy support the school effectively at a leadership and management level as well as leading collective worship and supporting RE. The church community helped the school to select traditional hymns that are taught to the children to help them understand the Anglican heritage. Children visit the church for worship at Christmas and Easter as well as for the RE curriculum. The school recognises the importance of continuing to develop the use of the church to enhance opportunities for children's spiritual development. Parents are supportive of the school. The school enjoys good links with the local community and also supports a range of local and international charities. The school meets the statutory requirements for collective worship and RE.

SIAMS report July 2015 Bartley Church of England Junior School, Winsor Road, Bartley, Southampton, SO40 3HR