

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Badsworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School	
Main Street, Badsworth, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF9 1AJ	
Current SIAMS inspection grade	Outstanding
Diocese	Leeds
Previous SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Local authority	Wakefield
Name of federation	N/A
Date/s of inspection	24 th November 2017
Date of last inspection	26 th November 2012
Type of school and unique reference number	Primary
Headteacher	Liz Jones
Inspector's name and number	Pauline Hilling-Smith 641

School context

Badsworth Church of England Junior and Infant school is a smaller than average sized primary school. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds. A small proportion of pupils are from other minority ethnic backgrounds. The proportion speaking English as an additional language is well below average. A below average proportion of pupils have special educational needs. The proportion of pupils supported through the pupil premium is smaller than average. The headteacher, who was the deputy headteacher at the time of the previous inspection, has been in post since October 2013. The church is next door to the school. The majority of pupils travel to the school from neighbouring areas.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Badsworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The leadership of the school guides its Christian vision strongly and this makes a major contribution to the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school.
- The strong relationships between the staff and pupils is based on mutual respect and Christian care.
- Pupils make good progress from their starting points.
- Pupils' behaviour is exemplary.

Areas to improve

- Re-establish visits to places of worship of other Christian denominations and other faiths.
- Ensure that pupils understand and know that there are other Christian denominations and understand that Christianity is a multi-cultural world faith.

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

Badsworth Church of England Junior and Infant School is at the centre of the community and is highly valued by all for its Christian character. Its mission to consider and respect everyone 'as Jesus taught us' is strongly embedded in all aspects of the school's work. The Christian values of peace, love, generosity, hope, compassion, faith, perseverance, trust, friendship, joy and forgiveness, eagerly identified by the pupils, underpin all of its work. In particular the respect and care extended to all exemplify the excellent attitudes and behaviour demonstrated by the pupils. Christian values are embedded into learning opportunities throughout all of the school's work. This ensures that pupils become reflective and resilient learners and is apparent in the well above average standards, identified at the end of last school year and which are currently being maintained. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is delivered through a broad, creative curriculum which makes clear cross curricular links but successfully ties everything together through the strong Christian values. Reflective areas in classrooms are highly effective because they are given prominence and are attractive, thus encouraging use by the pupils. In every classroom pupils are invited to post prayers. Relationships throughout the school are very strong and demonstrate the values in action. For example, emphasis is placed on everyone knowing each other by name. Pupils' behaviour towards each other and around the school reflects the Christian values and the staff have high expectations and aspirations for the pupils. Older pupils care deeply about the wellbeing of younger pupils and ensure they support them at all times. Attendance at school is well above the national average and pupils say they enjoy coming to school. They describe the school as 'amazing'. The school's distinctive and inclusive character ensures that pupils participate fully in the work presented to them by the staff and standards of learning are high. This is demonstrated through pupils' good progress from their different starting points. Classrooms are attractive and celebrate the pupils' work. Displays show clearly the school's work towards understanding Anglican practice and the commitment to the half termly value being considered. Religious Education (RE) contributes very significantly to the development of the school's Christian character. This is because pupils are given time in RE lessons to consider the big questions such as 'Where is heaven?' and 'What is the meaning of life?' There is a clear respect for diverse communities because pupils talk about how they give respect to the beliefs of peers of a different faith. However, visits to the different places of worship have not taken place for a while which means that there is a lost opportunity to deepen understanding even further. The pupils understand how many others in other local and wider communities are less fortunate than themselves and they work to support national charities. The Priest in Charge is a regular visitor and he plays an important part in the life of the school, for example supporting the excellent understanding the pupils have for the church year colours and what they represent. He has also extended the pupils' understanding of compassion through arranging for them to regularly visit the hospice outreach group. Services in church are highly valued by the pupils and their families. Some services, such as Epiphany, are held just for the school staff and pupils to enable all to have time to reflect without pressure. All the areas for improvement from the previous inspection have been prioritised in school development and as such addressed successfully.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is at the centre of the school's life. Everyone concentrates carefully on the important message being delivered and at the appropriate time participates enthusiastically. As a result collective worship is often inspirational. Pupils identify the value they place on the evaluation of the worship they make using the glass beads at the time or on the questionnaires they submit. All pupils are supported well to evaluate collective worship and describe enthusiastically how what they say in their evaluations influences development. They explain that the colour of the questionnaire paper represents the colours of the church year and how they change the colour 'flashes' around the school to reflect the church calendar. Pupils show they understand the significance of the items on the altar table including the big candle which they say represents Jesus as the light of the world. The Christian values, which are slotted onto the wooden cross with the current value in the centre, are clearly visible on the cross on the table. Prayer and reflection are an integral part of daily life as well as within worship. One parent commented on how she was 'always finding prayers at home'. Pupils talk about prayer as an integral part of their life. Pupils are supported to relate Bible stories to the school's Christian values and their own behaviour. They are confident to share their views and reflections. Pupils understand God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and explain that this relates to the three small candles on the altar table. Pupils are less sure about other Christian denominations. However, they much enjoy the collective worships led on a regular basis by the Hemsworth Gospel Church. One act of collective worship each half term is led in school by the priest in charge. Foundation governors also lead collective worship. Another worship each week is planned by the pupils and often includes reading out or acting out a Bible story. The pupils take care to give Bible references for the story. Bible stories are carefully chosen and made relevant for all the pupils, enabling them to contribute, often through drama, and engage with the learning. Music is an integral part of worship and contributes to creating the special atmosphere. Older pupils are very proud of their involvement in planning and delivering collective worship and as a result what they arrange is of very high quality.

Clearly worship is a highlight of the school day. Prayer and reflection form regular parts of the day and this enables pupils to develop their thoughtfulness and care towards others. Collective worship is regularly evaluated by governors thus ensuring that the quality of the worship remains outstanding and increases governor awareness of a major part of school life.

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

The headteacher is a highly respected leader. She is extremely effective because she has built a strong team who work together well to lead the development of the school as a church school. Working alongside the governors she has given the school stability, enabling staff to pursue their own goals and ambitions underpinned by a strong church school ethos. All leaders lead through example and have a very clear vision of Christian education based upon 'Care and respect for all' rooted in distinctively Christian values. This is articulated by all leaders and is evident throughout the school. The emphasis placed on 'how we can better care for God's world' is taken very seriously. Self-evaluation is robust because it is contributed to by everyone and priorities are sharply focused. Strategic objectives are monitored regularly and in detail and their impact evaluated carefully and collaboratively. The strong emphasis on professional development for all staff stems from the headteacher's supportive style of leadership which promotes strong teamwork and empowers all staff. Strong partnerships exist with other agencies which make a strong contribution to school development. Governors are very supportive of school and make carefully considered decisions about how their members can support the school and challenge effectively. Leadership of collective worship and RE has a high priority and leads to effective practice in these areas. Parents speak very highly of the school say and they appreciate its distinctly Christian nature. The school meets the statutory requirements for collective worship.

SIAMS report November 2017 Badsworth Junior and Infant Church of England VC Primary School, WF9 1AJ