



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Grimley and Holt VC Primary School

Grimley  
Worcestershire  
WR2 6LU

**Previous SIAMS grade:** Outstanding

**Current inspection grade:** Outstanding

**Diocese:** Worcester

Local authority: Worcestershire

Dates of inspection: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Date of last inspection:

School's unique reference number: 116815

Headteacher: Helen Hoarle

Inspector's name and number: Marcia Harris

#### School context

Grimley and Holt Church of England Primary School is a smaller than average sized rural school situated in the village of Grimley. Most of the 89 children on roll are of a white British heritage and the number of pupils with special educational needs is below average as is the number known to be eligible to receive free school meals. There is a single age Reception class and the rest of the school is organised into mixed aged classes.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Grimley and Holt VC Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The inspirational leadership of the headteacher which is strongly supported by staff and the governing body.
- The significant impact of explicit Christian values on behaviour and relationships in the whole school which create a harmonious and supportive community.
- The exceptional way in which pupils plan, lead and evaluate worship, leading to truly spiritual experiences for learners.
- The extremely strong and meaningful partnerships which reflect the Christian distinctiveness of the school and contribute to pupils' understanding of diversity.

#### Areas to improve

- Ensure that the shared understanding of spirituality is used to plan for progression in the development of children's spiritual awareness across all areas of the curriculum.
- Support the children's developing understanding of the Trinity by ensuring a greater focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit in worship.
- Enhance the opportunities for spiritual development by creating more opportunities for personal reflection and stillness.

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

The headteacher's vision for Grimley and Holt Primary School as a distinctive church school is clear and is well encapsulated in the statement 'Excellence and excitement every day for every child', based on psalm 118. However not all stakeholders are able to articulate this clearly yet. Curriculum planning, relationships, strategic and daily decisions are all informed by this vision, enabling the children to make good and sometimes outstanding progress. Christian values are deeply embedded in all aspects of school life. The eye catching displays around school highlight the importance of Christian values and the children are proud of the values banners that the whole school worked to create. All members of the school community can articulate the school values with passion and identify the impact that they have on the lives of learners. Children of all faiths talk about the significance of the values in their lives and make clear links between values and Bible stories; Key Stage One pupils linked the story of Jesus healing the paralysed man to the values of friendship, perseverance and kindness. Parents talk about an 'inclusive' school and recognise the effect that the values of 'compassion and kindness' and 'friendship and respect' have on their children, whilst staff are clear about the 'powerful effect' that the school values have in facilitating the exemplary behaviour of all children. Achievements of all types are celebrated and consequently children's self-esteem is high. Rewards given during celebration assemblies emphasise further the importance of living the school values and the children are engaged creatively in using iPads to identify 'values in action' in the playground. As a result, children listen to each other's views with genuine respect and respond with empathy and compassion to real life situations, for example Key Stage Two children were visibly moved by the plight of a lady affected by the earthquake in Nepal. The children's outstanding social and moral development is a result of the clarity of the headteacher's vision to develop 'that of God' within them; the children have the fundamental belief that their views are important and are inspired to care for others in the local and global communities. Following a visit from Christian Aid the children initiated a 'Move over poverty' fund raising event. The school has developed, through the support of informed foundation governors, a shared understanding of spirituality based on asking big questions and seeing awe and wonder all around. This approach has been embedded across the curriculum, not least in the innovative use of the 'Mantle of the Expert' approach. There is, however, no system in place to ensure progression and increasing depth in the opportunities for spiritual development offered. Religious education (RE) is engaging and stimulating and makes a significant contribution to the Christian character of the school through offering Children the opportunity to consider 'big questions' such as 'does Heaven exist?' and 'where is God?' Extensive curriculum opportunities to explore diversity and a variety of local and global links have resulted in children who have the utmost respect for other religions and cultures and who fully appreciate that Christianity is a multi-cultural world faith. Children were interested to learn that the charity organisation Islamic Relief is 'guided by values' and one pupil commented that the values were 'just the same as ours'. To the question 'is there any one true religion?' pupils in Years Five and Six answered, 'they are all as special as each other.'

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

Children are exceptionally comfortable when leading all aspects of whole school worship, confidently sharing and dramatizing Bible passages and leading prayers. As a result, worship is meaningful and inclusive. The worship programme, planned by the headteacher, provides opportunities for children to reflect on core Christian values and link them to the Bible stories. Collective worship takes a wide variety of forms but is always distinctively Christian and reflects Anglican traditions and practices. The use of Bible, candle and cross supports the children's developing understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit but as yet not all pupils are confident to talk about the Trinity. 'Open the Book' worship and worship led by a wide range of visitors contributes to the exciting and reflective experiences offered to the children, during which they can develop their understanding further of key Christian beliefs. Through the well-established 'Worship crew', learners are fully involved in planning, leading and evaluating worship. As a result, pupils listen with respect to their peers and respond enthusiastically

during worship. Singing is jubilant and joyful and is valued as a means of worship; one pupil commented, 'it's easier to pray to God through songs. They help us to say what we want.' Views of worship are sought regularly and inform future planning; instant evaluations of worship by learners, through the placing of 'pebbles' in the response pots as they leave each act of worship, together with evaluations by leaders, have led to improvements in worship. The resulting involvement of the community in church services, the introduction of call and response prayers and the development of a Eucharist service have greatly enhanced the spiritual experience of the school community. Prayer is valued at Grimley and punctuates the school day, with prayers in worship, at lunch and at the end of each day. Prayers are offered in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and children's own prayers are used regularly in worship at school and also in church services. Some opportunities for stillness and reflection are created through the use of reflection areas and diaries, although these are not used consistently across school. Leaders embrace opportunities to involve families in worship and parents enjoy attending worship in school and taking part in church services. Parents value the inclusive nature of worship at Grimley, recognising proudly that, 'no one gets left out'. The local church is a valued venue for worship and even the youngest children are comfortable to worship here during key times in the Christian calendar. As a result, collective worship makes a significant impact on the spiritual development of the whole school community.

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

The inspirational headteacher promotes a distinctively Christian vision with the uniqueness of every child at its core. The vision, 'Excellent and excitement everyday for every child' is underpinned by twelve Christian values and clearly shapes the approach of leaders to every aspect of school life. As a result, staff and governors have been successful in creating a nurturing environment which promotes pupils' high expectations and ensures care and respect for every child. Children know that they are valued and so behaviour and relationships are exemplary. The innovative and rich curriculum, in which Christian values are deeply embedded, ensures that the children become confident, articulate, resilient learners who have positive attitudes to school and make good progress. Supportive governors know their school extremely well and firmly believe in the value of every individual. The self-evaluation of the headteacher and leaders is robust and has led to significant developments which have impacted on the Christian distinctiveness of the school. Feedback is regularly sought from pupils, staff and parents and actions taken are sharply focused on what needs to improve. The high priority given to the development of RE has resulted in a creative approach to the delivery of the RE curriculum through regular focus days, trips and visitors to school. The individualised approach to professional development, informed by the headteacher's vision, ensures that the school is developing future leaders. Parents have a strong relationship with the school and recognise how its Christian character develops spiritual and moral qualities in their children. Parents comment on how the focus on Christian values ensures that 'everyone has a voice' and has led to the children 'living them without thinking'. The school and the parish church are at the heart of the local community and links are mutually supportive; the children enjoy their 'Ready steady go' gifts from the church and the school supports church services. Meaningful partnerships locally, nationally and globally are strong and successful and contribute to pupils' understanding of diversity. Collective worship and religious education meet statutory requirements. Overall, the leadership and management of the school are highly effective in maintaining and developing the school as a distinctive and inclusive church school.

SIAMS report May 2015 Grimley and Holt VC