



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Longney Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Chatter Street,
Longney,
Gloucestershire
GL2 3SL

Diocese: Gloucester

Local authority: Gloucester

Date of inspection: March 27th 2014

Date of last inspection: 22nd January 2009

School's unique reference number: 115634

Headteacher: Mrs Penny Cartwright

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Muriel Griffiths NS268

School context

Longney is a small village school with 98 pupils on roll, who come from villages in the surrounding area. The school has had some significant staff changes since the previous inspection. The majority of children are white British. The proportion of pupils supported at school action is broadly average. The proportion supported at school action plus or through a statement of special educational needs is below average. The proportion of pupils who are eligible for the pupil premium is also below average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Longney CEVC Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The inspirational leadership of the headteacher in developing the school's distinctive character.
- The way in which the school's Christian values impact on children's academic, personal and spiritual development.
- The relationships between all members of the school community which enable and consistently promote an effective work ethic.
- An environment where children are valued as individuals and whose talents are given every opportunity to flourish.

Areas to improve

- Continue with the development of the spiritual garden by providing more opportunities for its use across the curriculum and so giving children more time for quiet reflection in order to enhance their spiritual development.

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

Longney Church of England Primary school is a friendly, welcoming Christian community where the twelve explicit Christian values are recognised, celebrated and strongly underpin the daily life of the school. These values are covered in depth through collective worship, as an integral part of the curriculum and are backed up by the example set by teachers and adults in school. Pupils feel valued and special as a result of the school's strong emphasis on these Christian values. One of the ways in which this is achieved is by recognising, through inclusion and respect, that all are unique as individuals. The school's Christian character, through its values, contributes well to academic attainment and children achieve well. The school shows good awareness on inclusion provision through the rigour it shows for the achievement of vulnerable groups with the introduction of the 'Achievement for All' programme. These values also have a strong impact on children's good attendance. Children can identify the effect of these values on their daily lives and achievements. One child commented about the values, 'sometimes I get wound up and then I think about the values and they help me get on with my friends'. The current value, forgiveness, permeates children's conversations and impacts on the excellent behaviour seen around the school. The values promote a strong sense of belonging within the school community and the way that they are promoted enhances spiritual development with many opportunities provided to pause and reflect. Parents like the way that the school's values permeate its Christian character. They feel that it is effective in ensuring excellent personal development and well-being. Parents like being involved in the chosen Christian value each term and a display celebrates creative work based on the current value. Parents and children have produced various pieces of work about 'forgiveness' using a variety of media. One poem's words are 'like a plaster, forgiveness begins to heal you let go of past hurts'. Relationships in the school community are excellent because they are built on the value of friendship. The school's Christian ethos, collective worship and religious education (RE) are effective in supporting children's spiritual, social and moral development. Children listen respectfully to one another in an atmosphere of openness and trust. They are confident to share their views and opinions because they know that what they say will be valued by both peers and adults. This was especially evident in an RE lesson observed during the inspection when older children were talking about what Christians believe about heaven. Children were able to explain the meaning of the story that their teacher told them about the water bug and the dragonfly and how it tells them about 'Christian beliefs being reassuring about when we die.' An area for development in the previous inspection was to develop areas for quiet reflection inside the school and in the grounds. The school now has a well-used reflective area in a corridor with a prayer tree, where children place their own prayers and a spiritual garden is being developed outside. Further consideration as to how this can be used across the whole curriculum for quiet reflection is now needed.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is an important time of the day at Longney Church of England Primary School. Worship plays a key role in promoting the school's Christian values. Children say that they enjoy worship because 'we have opportunities to learn and reflect about Jesus'. The headteacher is responsible for co-ordinating worship and is totally committed to the prominent role that it plays in promoting the school's Christian ethos. An area for development in the previous inspection was to develop planning and evaluation of worship. Planning records are now in place, which show thorough progression with a strong focus on the school's Christian values. All members of the school community are involved in giving their views on collective worship and children can volunteer to be members of the Worship Team, which provides many opportunities for them to plan and lead worship. They enjoy writing prayers, acting out stories and taking responsibility for planning and leading worship on a regular basis. For example, on the day of the inspection, children led the school with the 'Gathering Song' that they had written themselves, 'We are here to give thanks'. Children are actively engaged and so participate enthusiastically during the daily act of worship. Spiritual

awareness is promoted strongly during worship through the use of guided reflection to promote and deepen personal spirituality. Music and art contribute strongly to the time of quiet reflection. During the worship observed, there were opportunities to look at a presentation of different styles of crosses from around the world, accompanied by appropriate quiet music. Children were then helped to think about why Good Friday linked with their current value, 'forgiveness'. Older children explained that 'Good Friday was a sad day but it was followed by the happiness of Easter Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead.' Children know that praying, reflection, listening to Bible stories and worshipping through music are all important elements that contribute to daily worship. They understand that prayer is important because it is 'talking to God'. Children say that they especially enjoy the monthly visits from the Open the Book team and say that they learn from the Bible stories presented because they are acted out in a 'lively, fun way'. These visits also provide valuable opportunities for children to get to know members of the local church. Children's understanding of Anglican practice is good. They are beginning to show an understanding of God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through the lighting of three candles at the beginning of worship. The vicar regularly leads worship, including special services in church which has a beneficial effect of strengthening links with the local church. Parents are delighted to join their children for Celebration Worship each week.

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

At Longney Church of England Primary School, a community has been created where Christian values are not only expressed, but are lived out and are at the heart of the school. The quality of leadership by the headteacher and governors, well supported by staff, contributes significantly to the success of this Church of England school. Longney is a school that does not stand still. The headteacher and governors, through on-going self-evaluation, seek constantly to promote further the school's Christian character. The headteacher's spiritual leadership is strong, imaginative, creative and effective and ensures a permeating Christian ethos which is an outstanding feature of the school. The governing body is fully supportive of the school's Christian character and is actively involved in ensuring that it is evident in practice and not just policy. An area for development in the previous inspection was to inform parents more explicitly about the responsibilities of foundation governors. The school has addressed this fully by providing more training for governors and a regular parent/governor forum takes place to ensure parents are more aware of the roles and responsibilities of governors. RE is led by two members of the teaching staff who give the subject a high profile through their excellent subject knowledge, enthusiasm and leadership skills. Following their recent review of the subject, there is improved consistency and progression in the subject. Parents speak very highly of the school. They like the caring ethos and the fact that the school shows awareness of the 'whole child'. Parents also like the links with the church and the opportunities to attend services in church. The vicar is a regular visitor to the school both to lead worship and also more informally. He provides much valued pastoral support for the whole school community and has an excellent understanding of the importance of the school's mission to the children and their families. The enthusiasm and commitment by the school's leadership and management ensure that the pupils of Longney school have every opportunity to grow and develop into mature, knowledgeable and caring young people. The school certainly lives out the words of its mission statement, 'building community, enriching lives'.

SIAMS report March 2014 Longney VC Primary School, Longney, Gloucester, GL2 3SL