

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

### Belton Church of England Primary School

Sadlers Wells

Belton

Loughborough

LE12 9TS

Diocese: Leicester

Local authority: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014

Date of last inspection: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009

School's unique reference number: 120144

Headteacher: Mrs E de Looze

Inspector's name and number: Stephen Gleave (798)

#### School context

Belton Church of England Primary is a small school with numbers rising to 85 on roll. Over 50% of pupils are from out of catchment. Most pupils are from a White British background. The proportion of disabled pupils and those with special educational needs is below average. There is a newly appointed headteacher in post. Pupils leave the school at the end of year five. The school has recently become part of a collaborative trust with four other local primary schools. Attendance rates are continually high.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Belton as a Church of England school are good**

- Christian values are clearly articulated and underpin the life of the school.
- Behaviour, in this distinctively Christian school is outstanding and this contributes to good attainment and progress.
- The strong partnership between the school and church is recognised by all as positively contributing to community cohesion.
- Collective worship is a strength of the school and is greatly valued and positively impacts on pupils' lives.

#### **Areas to improve**

- Develop self-evaluation strategies which lead to informed steps for future development.
- Provide places and opportunities for prayer and reflection outside of collective worship.

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

<p>The six Christian values of hope, peace, friendship, love, forgiveness and trust are clearly displayed on the school website and brochure and also as part of a beautiful display in the entrance hall so that they are clearly remembered by all as Christian values and the teachings of Jesus. The Christian ethos of the school provides a strong base for pupil achievement so that they make good academic progress, generally above the national average and the dedicated staff team recognise the potential of children of all abilities. The religious education curriculum was reviewed two years ago. Further monitoring of lessons should help to improve standards and consistency still further. Pupils can recall their favourite lessons with enthusiasm. The very strong relationship between the school, church and community is a real asset and has an outstanding influence on the distinctive Christian character of the school. This is greatly appreciated and clearly recognised by both pupils and parents. Following a very successful carol service, the church warden wrote 'Thanks for what you are all doing to make a closer connection for the school with the church.' The Christian character is successfully promoted by events such as Peace Day and visits to Loughborough for a re-enactment of the Last Supper. Studying other religions and cultures has enabled pupils to appreciate diversity and realise that common values are important to people of other faiths and traditions and those of none. The positive relationships between all members of the church and school communities can largely be attributed to their Christian values. Grace is said in classrooms at lunchtime using a book of Graces that children have written. One child said, 'We know that God is always watching us and we pray to speak to God to say thank you.' There are insufficient opportunities for prayer and reflection and special spaces need to be created for this purpose, both in classrooms and outdoors.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.</b></p> <p>Collective worship allows the school community to gather on a daily basis and sets the tone for each school day. Worship is distinctively Christian and it has an extremely positive impact on the spiritual development of the pupils as well as relationships and behaviour. Worship is led by five different leaders each week, including the vicar. They use a range of strategies to successfully interact with the children. A recent series of assemblies on 'Tips for a Good Life' featuring the Ten Commandments and led by the vicar was very well received. The school has planned its own programme and themes. References are regularly made to Jesus and the Bible and the six values which are the cornerstone of school life. On the day of the inspection the singing was joyous and inspirational. The story of Saul was compared to being a good friend in school. A candle was lit and everyone joined in with the candle prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Children value the daily worship which contributes greatly to developing the Christian values and ethos of the school. Worship is held in church on a regular basis and all the major festivals are celebrated. This contributes to a greater understanding of liturgical settings in the Anglican tradition. Parents are very supportive of services such as Palm Sunday with the procession through the village. The impact of worship is monitored effectively by governors with written records kept to inform future developments. However, pupil involvement in planning, leading and evaluating worship is not yet fully developed. One monitoring report evaluating how pupils recognise and celebrate Christian festivals stated that, 'The sharing of the Christian message is well and truly evident at Belton School.'</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good.</b></p> <p>School leaders are clearly committed to the school which they lead very effectively according to Christian principles. This has had a positive effect on standards of achievement and the wellbeing of the whole school community. Every aspect of school life is informed by Christian</p>

values which contribute to the outstanding behaviour, good pupil progress and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils. They are able to talk confidently about Christianity and other religions and are secure when talking about how the Christian faith motivates their actions. Parents are very supportive of the school and say they are pleased to be involved and consulted and that communication is good. The FOBS (Friends of Belton School) group are very active and supportive in fundraising as well as other areas. Collective worship is clearly monitored but there is little evidence of monitoring and evaluation of the

NS 09 2013 SIAMS Inspection School Report

school's Christian character which could result in an improvement plan to move the school even further forward. Strong links with the church and community as well as the diocese enhance the life of the school. Areas for development from the previous inspection have been addressed. Governors ensure that statutory requirements for religious education and collective worship are fully met. With a new headteacher and RE co-ordinator in place and a committed and supportive group of governors and parents, leadership and management of the school as a church school is securely good with the potential for positive growth.

SIAMS report July 2014  
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