

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Belton Church of England Primary School

Address	Sadlers Wells, Belton, Leicestershire. LE9 8DS		
Date of inspection	28 March 2019	Status of school	VC Primary
Diocese	Leicester	URN	120114

Overall Judgement	Grade	Good
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?		
Additional Judgement		
The impact of collective worship	Grade	Good

School context

Belton CE School is a primary school with 104 pupils on roll. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. Very few pupils speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who are considered to be disadvantaged is below national averages. The proportion of pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is above national averages. The school is in its second year of being extended to include Year 6. The current headteacher intends to retire at the end of the school year. OFSTED rated the school as Good in June 2018.

The school's Christian vision Achieving the best together.

By preparing all in our school community for fullness of life, reaching their potential, physically, mentally, and emotionally through an appreciation of their spiritual lives inspired by the values of Jesus Christ.
I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness. John 10 v10

Key findings

- The passion with which the leaders at all levels and the whole school community speak about the schools' Christian vision is impressive, inspiring all to flourish.
- The vision of Belton CE Primary school is promoted well within RE. Pupils use biblical characters as role models and biblical teaching enables them to make positive choices. However, there are few opportunities to learn about Christianity as a multicultural world faith.
- Mental health and wellbeing provision is exceptionally strong for all members of the school community enabling all to experience life in all its fullness. The school provides valuable inclusive support for vulnerable pupils and those who have special educational needs and their families.
- There are very strong local partnerships with the church and Be Skilled Trust driven by the school's leaders.
- Collective worship and times of reflection in school are enhanced by the wealth of clergy support and opportunities provided for all to explore spirituality and the Christian faith at St. John the Baptist Church.

Areas for development

- To develop the engagement of the school in wider partnerships including global links.
- For pupils to develop their role as leaders, in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship including taking part in prayer and also to enable the pupils to instigate and plan charitable and social action projects.
- To further develop the role of the whole governing body to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the Christian character of the school in order to aid the new headteacher with strategic planning.

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

Inspection findings

'Life in all its fullness' is at the centre of everything the school does and the passion with which every member of the school community talks about this is impressive. Leaders actively promote the Christian vision of the school and there are very positive relationships between adults and pupils as well as with the local church, village residents and the Be Skilled Trust partnership of local schools. Governors are immensely proud of the school but a cohesive plan for regular monitoring the Christian character of the school is not in place impacting on further development through strategic planning. Recommendations from the previous report have been implemented.

The school is in its second year of having a Year 6 class. Progress rates are broadly in line with national and a key priority for the school is to improve attainment in maths. The school has a higher percentage than national of pupils with additional needs who make good progress and this is attributed to the caring and welcoming character of the school. All pupils behave well and any incidents which do occur are dealt with effectively and appropriately recorded. Work on display and in books demonstrates the rich curriculum on offer. The base which is used for the Forest School not only allows pupils to gain confidence and develop resilience but also provides valuable spiritual experiences. The sensory garden is a joint community project which is accessible to all and pupils talk enthusiastically of the prayer experiences taking place there.

The school's vision is most powerfully demonstrated in how the school meets the needs of the whole school family and this has been evidenced through achievement of the Wellbeing Award. Pupils feel unique and nurtured and say they are taught to be like Jesus in their actions. One pupil talked about the school's values, 'They make me think more about my actions, what I do and that it does matter how I behave.' The Christian ethos of the school encourages pupils to be the best they can be. One parent said that, 'Because of school, we now have a connection back with the church.' Another described the support received for their family from school and church together as being incredible. Parents spoke of choosing to live in the village in order that their pupils could attend the school. The employment of a family support worker ensures that mental health and wellbeing issues are identified and addressed early. Pupils are proud of their fundraising for school and national charities but have few opportunities to make decisions about which charities to support or to challenge themselves to engage in social action projects.

Occasional visits to places of worship and school based learning gives pupils experience of life in multi-cultural Britain. Through the curriculum, pupils learn to understand, respect and celebrate difference and diversity. Staff talk about families and individuals with compassion and care whatever their circumstances. Pupils expressed varied personal opinions but were all in agreement that 'Belton will guide you but it does not force you to believe in Jesus.' The school has very strong links with the village and the local Be Skilled Schools Trust but has not developed any broader or global partnerships. Pupils have a limited understanding of Christianity as a world faith or the wider context of other world faiths.

Collective worship is a daily opportunity to explore and understand Bible stories and reflect on the meaning of these in pupils' own lives. Worship is comprehensively planned within the school and incorporates the school values on a regular basis. A variety of staff lead on a rotational basis and the worship is well supported by the local vicar and representatives from the local SOAR Christian charity. Staff speak of worship as being an opportunity to explore faith together, of it being a time of calm and that they take time to reflect and worship themselves during this time. Pupils appreciate the different forms of worship taking place and that they are an inspiration, giving them time to connect with God and helping them in their lives. Pupils write prayers in the classrooms and for special assemblies and further opportunities are needed to lead prayer on occasion in daily worship. There is the potential for further developing worship experiences by using the inspirational outdoor spaces especially the amphitheatre and sensory garden. All members of the school community speak enthusiastically about attending church services on a regular basis. The church is a central focus for many school and village events drawing the community and families together.

RE provision and teaching is given high prominence in the school through both the time allocated within the curriculum and training provided for staff. The class 'floor books' clearly demonstrate the range of understanding and questions raised by pupils. The school uses the 'Understanding Christianity' resource to help pupils understand Christian concepts and speak knowledgeably about Biblical texts. For example, one pupil talked of Esther as being brave and having to make many choices similar to those in her own life. Staff have attended

training to support the roll out of this programme alongside other members of the Be Skilled Trust and this has had a clear impact on the variety of opportunities offered in RE lessons. Pupils speak of a vast improvement in their RE lessons over the last year and how they really enjoy this aspect of their learning now. The RE coordinator has planned provision to ensure the school fulfils the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement regarding the proportions of teaching Christianity and other world faiths.

Headteacher	Elizabeth de Looze
Inspector's name and number	Joy Hardy 944