



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Teynham Parochial Church of England Primary School

Station Road,
Teynham,
Sittingbourne,
Kent,
ME9 9 BQ

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Canterbury

Local authority: Kent

Dates of inspection: 24 May 2016

Date of last inspection: 28 June 2011

School's unique reference number: 118651

Headteacher: Elizabeth Pearson

Inspector's name and number: Susan Thompson 714

School context

Teynham Parochial Church of England Primary school is a smaller than average school, situated in a village outside Sittingbourne. The number of pupils with special educational needs is above the national average. The number of pupils eligible for pupil premium is high and well above the national average. A large percentage of children require support from other agencies. The school population is currently increasing with a number of new children starting each week. The school is situated a mile away from the parish church. Church visits require a walk across the fields or a minibus trip.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Teynham as a Church of England school are outstanding.

- The Christian ethos and values are prominent in the school environment and provide a very clear focus for the wellbeing of all members of the school.
- Excellent links with the local parish church and other denominations locally contribute to a diversity of Christian experience for the school community.
- High quality acts of worship contribute greatly to pupils' spiritual, moral and social (SMSC) development.
- Reflection opportunities are valued and are engaged with actively.

Areas to improve

- Enhance the pupils' understanding of the theological teaching about the Trinity.
- Strengthen the planning to ensure the continuing development of leadership roles across the school, including pupils, staff and governors.

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

Teynham Parochial CE Primary school community is absolutely clear this is a church school. Actions since the last inspection have included revising the mission statement in 2015 resulting in a fresh expression of the Christian values across the school. The identified values are friendship, courage, justice, humility, wisdom and compassion. These are central to school life and reflected in classroom, hall and corridor displays and are increasingly being reflected in school documentation. The values are well understood as Christian values by all members of the school community. Most members of the community are able to root these values in Bible stories. Pupils are encouraged to articulate the impact Christian values have on their thinking. This was particularly evident in the religious education (RE) and personal, social and health education (PSHE) learning observed. For instance, in the year 6 lesson links were made between the school Christian values and the fruit of the spirit. Year 4 RE books demonstrate the pupils applying the value of honesty to writing a modern day parable. Pupils, parents and staff remark on the great care and support given to those facing challenges by all members of the school community. They particularly reference the school leadership team and the family liaison officer. A high standard of behaviour was exemplified throughout the inspection. The behaviour policy is consistently applied across the school. It is rooted in celebration, positive reinforcement and forgiveness. Those struggling are given pro-active support, recognising that life's circumstances can have an impact on behaviour. Pupils enjoy school and are supported well if attendance becomes an issue. The moral education of the pupils is well developed. The buddy system enables older pupils to support younger pupils, ensuring all pupils feel welcomed and valued. Each year pupils choose an international charity with a Christian foundation and organise events to raise significant amounts of money. This extends the pupils' understanding of the world as a global community; recent charities include Smile Malawi and Water Aid. This supports the development of community cohesion, an area for development in the last inspection. The pupils understand that charity events show that God loves everyone and that raising money for others expresses this love. Some pupils have family connections with other countries. This contributes to the pupils understanding of Christianity as a world-wide faith. For example, pupils are able to draw on their own experience and talk about being a Christian in Poland. The adults involved in Teynham school are motivated to ensure that all pupils achieve their potential. This impacts on the clear processes to identify, support and improve the outcomes for the pupils, whatever their starting points and whatever their needs. This results in high levels of progress and achievement for pupils across the school. Currently the RE policy does not fully reflect the schools practice in the delivery of RE. It focuses on personal and social development rather than an appreciation of different religions. Pupils' talk about enjoying the range of learning opportunities available to them in RE. Displays show they are able consider what it is they wish to learn, ask deep questions and discuss their ideas. They attain as highly in RE as they do in other curriculum areas.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The collective worship planning is based on 'Values for Life' materials thus ensuring that the Bible, prayer and Jesus are referred to regularly. Pupils are able to talk with confidence about a range of stories and teaching from both the Old and New Testament. They could give examples such as Jesus being humble and how Noah obeyed God. The planning reflects the church calendar and has a value focus every term. Pupils take a varied and active part in collective worship and particularly enjoy times lead by the clergy, Church Army Captain or the Family Trust. A range of leaders, from both inside and outside the school community, ensure the pupils develop an understanding of a range of Christian expression. Classes lead whole school collective worship six times a year and pupils lead whole school services in the church. The pupils identify the impact the values discussed in collective worship have on their lives. This impact is shared with the whole school at a collective worship in the last week of each term which focuses on what has been learnt. When looking at wisdom pupils have considered quotes from famous people such as Gandhi, alongside biblical examples such as King Solomon. Prayer is

an important part of the school day with pupils saying prayers in collective worship, before lunch and before the end of the day. They value prayer as an opportunity to speak to God. As one child says 'if we are upset we can pray to God'. They have the opportunity in class to use the reflection areas if they need a moment to be quiet and write their own prayers in highly valued reflection books. Pupils see the importance of the opportunity to pause, 'so we can think and calm down if things get difficult for us.' The pupils can identify the three parts of the Trinity. The school has rightly identified the need to increase the understanding of the Trinity so that pupils can explain the role of each part of the Trinity. A range of stakeholders are engaged with the evaluation of the impact of collective worship, addressing an area for development in the last inspection. This is undertaken every few months with results fed back to governors. However, the action, monitoring, evaluation cycle is not immediately explicit in the paper evidence.

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

There is clear and effective leadership of Teynham school by leaders and the governing board. All are able to articulate and embody their values as a church school. This supports the clear focus on pupil wellbeing based on the school's Christian values. One parent commented 'the change in my child's confidence and self-esteem was huge within two weeks of starting here'. The pastoral support for all members of the community is strong; staff recognise they can turn to each other for support in challenging times. Christian values impact well on both the RE and PSHE curriculum areas. The school is at the early stages of ensuring links to the values are made across other subject areas. A range of stakeholders are involved in ongoing evaluation. Evidence was provided of questionnaires completed by pupils, parents and governors. These evaluations are overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the strong pastoral support and Christian foundation provided by the school. Whilst accurate self-evaluation is taking place the school lacks the confidence to write down the judgements reached. Parents value the pupils learning about the Christian faith. Many actively choose the school because of its approach to education. They value the links with the church; about 100 people regularly attend Messy Church run by the church in the school. They appreciate the way pupils from a range of backgrounds and with varied needs are integrated into school life. Following a development point from the last inspection school leaders have developed a rolling program to ensure that the policies reviewed reflect the Christian values of the school. There is a clear focus on church school developments within the whole school development plan, in particular SMSC and British Values this year. This is monitored by governor visits which challenge the school. All recruitment for new staff includes a question focusing on working in a church school. Some opportunities are given to staff to develop as future church school leaders. This is currently limited to a small number of opportunities for the deputy headteacher. The parish is highly committed to the work of the school with the incumbent serving as chair of governors. The other foundation governors are also very active within the school and church school matters are regularly on full governing board agenda. The school meets the statutory requirements for RE and collective worship.

SIAMS report May 2016, Teynham Parochial Church of England Primary School, Teynham, ME9 9BQ