

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Bishop Loveday Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	White Post Road Bodicote OX15 4BN
Current SIAMS inspection grade	Good
Diocese	Oxford
Previous SIAMS inspection grade:	Outstanding
Local authority/date of academy conversion	Oxfordshire
Name of multi-academy trust/ federation]	N/A
Date/s of inspection	4 October 2016
Date of last inspection	September 2011
School's unique reference number	123182
Headteacher	Jane Ridley
Inspector's name and number	Lizzie McWhirter 244

School context

Bishop Loveday is larger than the average primary school with 407 pupils on roll. The majority of these pupils are from a White British background. The proportion of pupils who are disadvantaged or who have special educational needs is below the national average. The vicar is chair of the governing body. The headteacher has been in post since September 2014. She is a school improvement leader within the local authority and supports other schools for one day a week.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bishop Loveday as a Church of England school are good

- Bishop Loveday is a welcoming, accepting Christian community which nurtures and serves all its children and their families. Its Christian ethos shines out and underpins all school life.
- Christian values which stem from Bible stories strongly underpin the school's Christian character, enriching children's spirituality.
- The strong partnership with St John the Baptist Church, through its vicar, enables the school community to value and use prayer and reflection in daily life.

Areas to improve

- Enable pupils to plan and lead worship more frequently so they grow in their leadership roles and develop spiritually.
- Embed the programme of visits and visitors to enrich pupils' experiences of meeting people of faith more often.
- Increase rigour in the monitoring and evaluation of religious education [RE], to ensure the Big Questions are linked to Christian values and the global dimension of Christianity.

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

Bishop Loveday is a popular primary school whose Christian ethos shines through and underpins its policy and practice. Consequently, it is a welcoming and accepting Christian community which nurtures and serves its children and their families. The Christian vision for the school can be seen in the resulting fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, cited in Galatians Chapter 5. This school firmly believes that God values everyone, and sees its mission as helping every individual to achieve well by equipping them with a feeling of self-worth. Alongside this, there exists a respectful attitude to others, an excitement for learning and an enthusiasm for life. As a result, the school's chosen Christian values of love, friendship, courage, respect, unity and forgiveness underpin daily life. They are rooted in the biblical story of The Prodigal Son and are at the heart of the school's vision, informing key policies and are linked to the Five B's, the school's rules. It is because the Christian values are made explicit and deeply embedded in school life they have a significant impact on the daily life and achievement of pupils. Attendance is very good because Bishop Loveday has a focus on the children's wellbeing as well as academic achievement and encourages friendship and the responsibility to learn in the widest sense. Christian distinctiveness is a driver for the headteacher and governors, seeing spiritual development in all activities. Above all, they want to preserve all that is unique and special about Bishop Loveday. Teachers provide memorable and exciting learning experiences as well as nurture groups for vulnerable children. This results in all groups of children making progress, with vulnerable children making very good progress, given their starting points. In Key Stage 2 children are making good progress year on year. The school attributes this to the respect pupils show for learning as well as the good models of working together. Global learning partnerships, such as the sports partnership with a school in South Africa, have enriched pupils' awareness of other communities and cultures as global citizens of the future. The spiritual garden is under construction, which pupils are looking forward to using as 'a quiet place to think and pray'. In addition, RE makes a good contribution to the school's Christian character and to pupils' spiritual development.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Bishop Loveday enjoys a special partnership with St John the Baptist Church, through its vicar who is also chair of governors. She is a welcome and regular visitor to school, leading weekly worship with a strong emphasis on prayer and reflection. Consequently, pupils speak of the importance of worship in their own lives, saying, 'It actually means I can talk to God. It helps me with my life and I feel relaxed when I worship'. They go on to say, 'it doesn't matter where you worship, it's about respecting God'. Christian values stem from Bible stories which strongly underpin the school's Christian character. For example, pupils cite, 'The story of The Prodigal Son tells me to do the right things and also includes our values, things which are right. The father forgave the son, the son had the courage to go back and the father still respected the older son'. Pupils learn from stories of friendship, such as David and Mephibosheth as well as stories of courage, such as David and Goliath. Pupils enjoy writing their own prayers as result of the Connect Project and say they would like to plan and lead worship more frequently in school. Currently, this happens at key festivals through the church year, such as Harvest and Christingle. This has already been identified as an important area for development. Pupils are growing in their understanding of The Holy Trinity. This is enriched by activities such as the Easter and Pentecost experiences in church. Pupils say, 'we can't see The Holy Spirit, but we know he's there, as at Pentecost he took the form of fire'. Pupils speak of God as 'the creator of everything'. They refer to Ascension-tide as, 'Jesus descended to earth to say bye to all his disciples. He made all the miracles happen and gave up his life for everyone else'. Parents speak highly of worship in church or school, saying they too feel welcome, praising the vicar's very good relationship with the children. Staff value worship and are united in providing the best for the children. Consequently, they evaluate worship with the vicar who liaises with the governors.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Pupils say they enjoy RE. Teaching and learning is good at Bishop Loveday. For example, Year 4 pupils use the story of The Blind Man and The Elephant to explore their own view of God and relate this to the views of others. Pupils also like finding out about other's beliefs through asking the Big Question each term. For example, Year 2 pupils explore the story of Zacchaeus as part of their focus on 'Can stories change people?' Pupils make connections to the Bible stories they encounter with their school values, such as courage. Lessons can include the study of inspirational lives of Christians such as Mother Teresa, which make a good contribution to pupils' understanding of Christianity as a worldwide faith. As a result, pupils' religious literacy and their knowledge of the

Christian story is good. RE is well led, managed and resourced, with assessment and tracking in place. Consequently, progress in RE is good. The RE subject leader attends local network meetings and supports other staff, with the vicar attending diocesan training. RE has its own action plan, with areas identified for future development. This includes increasing the rigour in the monitoring and evaluation of RE, with a focus on the Big Questions linked to the school's values as well as Christianity's global dimension.

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

The school's leaders and governors are committed to the wellbeing and achievement of the whole school community. This is because the school's vision is 'joining together, learning for life', which places everyone as valuable in God's sight. Pupils have a voice through the school council and know that their viewpoints are listened to and acted upon. Pupil surveys on collective worship inform the governors' plans for the future in terms of the pattern of worship and the importance of personal prayer. For example, the school development plan outlines that whilst pupils lead class worship, their leadership of whole school worship is to be encouraged. This develops their leadership skills and nurtures their spiritual development. The school has also identified increasing the robustness of the monitoring in RE, showing that self-evaluation is accurate. Consequently, RE and worship both meet statutory requirements. Diocesan training and support is valued by staff and governors alike, supporting teachers and leaders and managers with the skills they need. The headteacher and her team have worked hard to raise standards within a strong Christian framework. As a result, parents testify to their children becoming more confident. They say, staff have enabled their children to 'unlock their potential so they have courage to be who they are'. Staff praise the friendly, supportive family they work in, speaking of its calm atmosphere, even under pressure, where there is 'always time for a kind word'. They go on to speak of Bishop Loveday as 'an amazing place, with caring and supportive staff, who love children. A true family!' Community links are strong. A good example is the annual Remembrance Day commemoration when house captains represent the school at the service at the village war memorial. The school choir sing for the elderly and the annual Happy Harvest Tea enables the school to serve the village community.

SIAMS report October 2016 Bishop Loveday CE VA Primary School, Bodicote OX15 4BN