



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

### West Pennard Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Church Lane  
West Pennard  
Glastonbury  
Somerset  
BA6 8NT

#### Diocese: Bath & Wells

Local authority: Somerset

Dates of inspection: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014

Date of last inspection: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

School's unique reference number: 123780

Headteacher: Helen Burchell

Inspector's name and number: Wendy Simmons - 127

#### School context

The 211 pupils at West Pennard primary school, situated in a rural setting, come from neighbouring towns and villages. The school building has sympathetically evolved to combine the new with the original Victorian structure. The external environment provides ample play space for all with areas for environmental learning and spiritual development. Standards on entry are near the national average, reflecting the socio-economic mix of the locality. Children make very good progress by the end of Key Stage 1 and have made outstanding progress by the end of Key Stage 2. Attendance has been variable, with the impact of the world renowned Glastonbury Festival a contributing factor and safeguarding meets requirements.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of West Pennard as a Church of England school are outstanding.

- West Pennard is a UNICEF 'Rights Respecting' school.
- The leadership of the headteacher together with governors is outstanding.
- Links with the clergy and Benefice teams of West Pennard and Pilton are strong.
- Children have a sound understanding of 'Rights Respecting' issues, Christian values and the Global dimension of the Christian faith.
- The creative curriculum supports children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and awareness.
- Relationships between staff, pupils, governors and parents are outstanding, uniting all in the care, guidance and support for all children.

#### Areas to improve

- Build upon the progress made to develop children's understanding of the Trinitarian beliefs of the Anglican Church.
- Build upon children's experience of leading class worship to planning, resourcing and

leading Key Stage and whole school worship.

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

West Pennard is proud of its UNICEF 'Rights Respecting School' award which underpins the mnemonic RESPECT, representing, 'Responsibility, Excellence, Safety, Praise, Enjoyment and Enrichment, Courtesy, Teamwork'. Children can explain the award and school motto, 'To Try is to Triumph'. The impact of this global dimension and understanding is supported by the identified Christian values of 'Friendship, Wisdom, Compassion, Trust, Peace, Forgiveness, Justice, Endurance, Hope and Choices. An example of the outworking of this is the 'Fair Trade Tuck shop and support for Christian Aid. Living out these values has a significant impact on standards and attainment, where the majority make outstanding progress from their starting point. For example, one pupil independently produced a collage about the church where her grandparents worship and entitled it 'Goodness'. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. Provision for Religious Education (RE) and related cross curricular experiences, together with Forest School provision and a wide range of day and residential visits, makes a significant impact. These offer a variety of life and faith experiences which support spiritual and social development. Moral and cultural development is supported by a class link with Wolf Fields school near London with shared outings and reciprocal visits broadening children's experience of national diversity. Aware that Christianity is a worldwide faith, children speak confidently of a class link with an African school and support for a child there. Interactive displays reflect the school's outstanding Christian character. All classes have their own individual reflective area with prayer basket, cross and current Christian value. Art and music play an important part in school life. The choir participates in a Wells Cathedral carol service. Art is used as a visual stimulus for interactive displays. For example, a display relating to Article 29 of the Rights Respecting Award exemplifies education to develop personality, talents and abilities. RE makes an outstanding contribution to the school's Christian character. Children have positive attitudes and enjoy learning of other faiths alongside Christianity. RE is planned and delivered according to the agreed syllabus. Lessons are challenging, for example in year R lesson, 'Why are some times special?' children explored different celebrations and the wonder of gifts and giving. Children have RE books and assessment takes place at the end of each unit. The subject leader's RE portfolio provides very good evidence of progress, which is in line with attainment in English. Children's work is monitored and levelled against AT1 and AT2. Parents speak enthusiastically about the school and the care, guidance and support given to all children. Many support the Christian ethos through attendance at events in school and services in church. They speak very highly of the headteacher and staff. The impact of relationships between staff, governors, parents and community contribute to the school's Christian character.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.**

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school. This has an outstanding impact on all children with detailed planning by the co-ordinator using weekly themes based upon 'Rights Respecting' and Christian values, interwoven with the Christian calendar. The school is the catchment school for the parishes of West Pennard and Pilton embracing two benefices. A lay reader is the ex-officio governor and the school benefits from clergy and church member support from both benefice teams. The co-ordinator liaises with all worship leaders and consistency of approach and a varied weekly pattern ensures worship reflects Anglican traditions. Children are introduced to Anglican Trinitarian beliefs, however this is in the early stages of development. The impact of worship experience is based upon the variety of worship leaders and children can recall worship values and themes. They relate the current theme of choices to the parables and how Jesus told these to emphasise how we should behave. The outstanding worship observed explored the Ascension with Key Stage 1 children. Music, prayer and reflection and the singing of 'We are climbing Jesus' ladder' allowed children to

understand Jesus' 'goodbye' to his disciples. The inspired choice of modern choral music reflected the school's music tradition as children took part in 'pass the parcel', where each opening revealed an aspect of Jesus' life. Children lead class worship and are involved in Festival services in St Nicholas' church such as Christingle and Mothering Sunday. They also lead the Easter liturgy, which takes place in the school hall. Last year, the Christmas service was held at St John the Baptist, Pilton. The involvement of clergy and an 'Open the Book team' leading collective worship makes a significant spiritual impact on all children, helping them reflect upon the world and their place within it.

Children are familiar with Anglican verses and responses and they know and use the Lord's prayer and school prayer. Opportunities for prayer and spiritual reflection occur regularly during services, celebrations and activities where children take part. For example, children write prayers for all occasions and these are used regularly. The co-ordinator has established a recorded system for monitoring and evaluating worship involving children and governors.

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

The headteacher's outstanding leadership ensures the Christian vision is exemplified by everyone. She is very well supported by a governing body with knowledge and understanding to embrace new developments. The strong support of the ex-officio, Benefice teams, church community and experienced deputy head, who is Collective Worship co-ordinator and RE subject leader, has an outstanding impact upon the provision and outcomes for all children. The Collective Worship co-ordinator provides a worship programme underpinning the ethos of the school and as RE subject leader has developed a curriculum plan which embraces cross curricular dimensions and involves teaching about other faiths. This ensures children's growing understanding of the wider world. Familiar with Bible stories and the teachings of Jesus, the impact of the school's Christian distinctiveness is that children make outstanding year on year progress in line with their abilities and national expectations. The range of curricular and other activities enjoyed by children supports their motivation and interpersonal skills. In addition, positive and ongoing links with the Diocese continue to impact upon their Christian awareness. Areas for development in the previous inspection and all statutory obligations are met.

SIAMS report May 2014 - West Pennard Church School, Glastonbury, BA6 8NT