



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Lakefield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Lake Lane, Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, GL2 7HG

Previous SIAS grade: Outstanding

Current SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Gloucester

Local authority: Gloucestershire

Date of inspection: 20 March 2015

Date of last inspection: 25 January 2010

School's unique reference number: 132248

Headteacher: Ian Williams

Inspector's name and number: Daphne Spitzer NS No 37

School context

Lakefield Church of England Primary School is a one form entry school with 196 children on roll and a 40 place nursery class. It serves the village of Frampton-on Severn and surrounding area. The majority of children are from white British heritage families. The numbers with special educational needs or physical disabilities are in line with the national average and the number of children eligible to receive the Pupil Premium is below average. The school leadership and staff have experienced a period of mobility since the last inspection. The headteacher has been in post for two years.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Lakefield VC Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The quality of children's spiritual awareness promoted by the school's distinctive Christian character has a strong impact on their academic achievement and personal development
- The inspirational leadership of the headteacher is clearly promoting the school's distinctive Christian character in order to raise its impact
- The excellent partnership between the church and school communities is mutually beneficial enabling all to feel part of the extended church school family

Areas to improve

- Plan explicit opportunities for spiritual development in the curriculum in all classes in order to provide consistent effective practice throughout the school
- Develop a programme of visitors from other faiths and visits to places of worship in order to widen children's experience and understanding of diversity as well as enriching the religious education curriculum

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

Lakefield Church of England Primary School is a friendly and inclusive Christian community. It has identified a set of seven values deeply rooted in Christian teaching which are integral to the whole life of the school. These values, with forgiveness at their heart, are having a significant impact on children's personal and spiritual development as well as on their academic achievement. Children talk enthusiastically of the importance of the values in their lives and their strong belief that all the values help them to learn and 'get on well' in school. In particular they speak of the value of friendship 'helping you in class' because it is clearly interlinked with other Christian values such as trust, forgiveness, truth and respect. As a result, all relationships within the school community are outstanding. Children speak with a growing understanding of spirituality and of its impact at a personal level on their lives. It is having a profound effect on their learning as well as behaviour. For example, the practice of stilling and reflecting in their house groups before going into class at the end of play is providing a calm setting as a good base for learning. In this way the school's promotion of spiritual development is very effective. Spiritual development is not planned explicitly into the curriculum on a daily or weekly level. However, whole school projects such as the focus on prayer in children's planning for the spiritual garden, the forthcoming 1315 church community anniversary and the visit of 'iSingpop' are having a profound impact on the lives of the children. Children enjoy religious education (RE). They have very positive attitudes towards learning about people with other faiths. However they are not generally aware that people from different faiths and diverse communities live in a similar part of this country. RE promotes spiritual development very well; for example, younger children were able to identify the feelings of Jesus as part of the Easter story, commenting that Jesus would not have liked 'people crowding round him' on his entry into Jerusalem, thereby revealing a good level of empathy and sensitivity.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship holds a place of central importance in the daily life of the school. Children say they enjoy collective worship because it is a special time to come together as one community to 'worship God and Jesus'. Worship promotes distinctive Christian values very effectively. This was evident in the way that the current value of perseverance was illustrated by two stories from the Bible. Children found these stories meaningful and relevant because both were linked with the plight of refugees and were well understood. Christian values have a profound impact on the life of the school; for example, the recent visit from the Christian group 'iSingpop' created worship songs based on the school's values. These songs which are loved by the children enhance the strong sense of community. Worship is a time of quiet and stillness in the school day whilst at the same time highly interactive with enthusiastically joyous singing. This special setting promotes spiritual development very well. A time of reflection and prayer is integral to worship as well as daily life at Lakefield. As a result, children say that they reflect and pray at home often thinking back over their actions and how they could improve their behaviour. The leadership of collective worship by the headteacher is very effective. He plans termly themes with the vicar who usually leads worship each week. Together they have introduced aspects of Anglican practice into worship, such as simple liturgical responses, and have promoted the children's good understanding of the Trinity. Worship is planned and led frequently by the children's worship team who assist the headteacher in monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship; this in turn contributes to the evaluation of worship undertaken by the governors' church and community committee. The school visits the local church to celebrate the main Christian festivals which are led by children and are promoting a good understanding of these events in the church calendar.

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

In the two years since his appointment the headteacher has shared his strong Christian vision

with the school and church community. A core set of values has recently been developed based on a new Christian vision for the school. This was agreed following wide consultation which included the local church community. As a result, in a short time, the school's Christian values have become firmly embedded and are having a significant impact on the whole school community. Governors contribute exceptionally well to the life of the school and are fully aware of the way the school has made excellent progress since the appointment of the headteacher. This is because the school's self-evaluation process undertaken by the embedded work of the church and community committee is very effective. It is reflected in the partnership with parents who feel fully involved with the development of the school's distinctive Christian character. For instance, the school has shared the Christian teaching which lies at the root of its values and parents are invited to share their views about the effectiveness of these values. Links with the diocese are good and training and professional development has been used very effectively as noted from the current project to create a spiritual garden. Religious education is led very well by the headteacher who ensures that it has a high profile in the school curriculum. The school's partnership with the church and community is exceptionally strong and of mutual benefit. The whole school's involvement in the church's seven hundred year celebrations is evident in a significant long term curriculum project. Other examples include confirmation classes held in the school as well as Messy Church and the valued contribution of the local Open the Book team to collective worship. The vicar's contribution to school life is very effective and highly valued. It is noted in the way she promotes spiritual awareness such as by leading a local prayer group in school and her pastoral care of the staff and school community as a whole.

SIAMS report March 2015 Lakefield VC, Frampton-on-Severn, GL2 7HG