



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Brierley Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School

Beech Close
Brierley
S72 9EJ

Diocese: Wakefield

Local authority: Barnsley
Dates of inspection: 12th February 2014
Date of last inspection: 8th December 2008
School's unique reference number: 106629
Headteacher: Mr Mike Reed
Inspector's name and number: Denise Brogden 486

School context

Brierley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a smaller than average sized primary school serving a mixed socio-economic area with many families in circumstances of significant deprivation. The number on roll has risen significantly over the past few years. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is broadly average. Almost all pupils are of White British heritage.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Brierley VC CE Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Brierley Church of England Primary School is an outstanding school that truly reflects its Christian foundation.
- Its key values of thankfulness, friendship, trust, endurance and forgiveness are clearly rooted in a strong Christian tradition which is at the heart of the school. The Christian ethos permeates all of school life and is especially seen in the strong mutual respect between staff and pupils and the responsibility they have for the care of each other.
- The school, in its statement of intent seeks to encourage 'children, who if they wish, can develop and extend their religious commitment further'.
- The outstanding care and guidance provided for pupils helps them to understand the importance of forgiveness. The behaviour of the pupils is exemplary.

Areas to improve

- To extend the variety of stakeholders who evaluate collective worship.
- To widen the number of visitors delivering acts of worship.
- To create an outdoor reflection area.

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

The school is strongly committed to the nurture and care of all its pupils promoted through clear Christian principles. Pupils say they feel safe and are taught the importance of saying sorry in order to bring about reconciliation. Pupils recognise the importance of ensuring everyone feels included in the school 'family'. An action from the last SIAS, to ensure that

displays give opportunities for pupils to reflect and reinforce Christian values, has been very well developed. Pupils have helped to interpret the meaning of the values for themselves and these are displayed on the 'Every Faith Matters' display and Prayer and Reflection areas. Pupils know that the value of endurance means they keep trying their best with help from God. Children are encouraged to develop high expectations in all areas of their learning. Academic achievement of learners is very good and standards in RE are in line with other subjects in KSI. Actions are in place in Key Stage 2 to develop thinking skills in pupils including through the use of philosophy for children. Pupil behaviour is outstanding. Pupils expressed the importance of visiting the local church for special events and times of the year which supports their growing knowledge of Christian festivals and the teachings about God and Jesus contained in Bible stories. All pupils are able to identify that they attend a Church of England school and recognise that the Golden Rules help them 'to be better people, to be more kind'. Religious education (RE) has a high priority in school and RE displays reflect the teaching of world religions. Pupils make choices about which charities they want to support and a number of pupils are involved in their own fundraising projects, thus putting their beliefs into action. Local clergy play an important role in their support of the school's Christian ethos and this is much valued.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Daily collective worship is important in the life of the school providing an affirming experience for pupils, staff and visitors and successfully promoting their spiritual growth. A collective worship committee is now in place, a development since the last inspection and pupils have identified the Christian values to be included in acts of worship. Staff and pupils plan the worship and pupils are invited to read prayers from the prayer tree. Pupils regularly evaluate worship and discuss strengths and areas to develop within the worship committee. This needs to be extended to ensure regular evaluation by a wider range of stakeholders, especially foundation governors. A high majority of pupils are very positive about worship, as are parents and governors who acknowledge that worship within church 'helps people to step over the threshold into church'. The values of trust, friendship, forgiveness, endurance and thankfulness link with the Golden Rules and these have been integrated into the SMSC policy. Children clearly enjoy the opportunities to spend time as a whole school in collective worship, listening, singing, reflecting and praying. Children willingly volunteer to take part in worship. Time for stillness and reflection is an important aspect of collective worship. The vicar begins worship with responsive liturgy 'The Lord Be With You'. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian, honouring the Anglican tradition. There is a strong and effective link with the local church of St Paul's. Opportunity is provided for children to experience aspects of worship on visits to church and to celebrate saints' days including St Paul's.

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

The headteacher, together with the senior leadership and governors, provides outstanding leadership. Governors and staff work in close partnership. The ethos of the school is shared, understood and very well supported by all members of the school community. A working party of the governing body has been set up since the last inspection to consider the distinctiveness of the school and key elements of this have been the success of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the core Christian values, building links with the parish and reviewing the SMSC policy. Parents recognise the very clear Christian values which are 'instilled from a very young age and come from the headteacher'. The school welcomes suggestions and contributions from all stakeholders in school. RE and collective worship are very well led and managed. Several members of staff are engaged in leadership courses. Clearly, at this school, everyone works to ensure there are happy children who are confident and successful learners, with care and respect for each other being at the heart of the school.