



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### St Leonard's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Innage Lane, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 4HL

**Previous SIAS grade: Outstanding**

**Current inspection grade: Good**

**Diocese: Hereford**

Local authority: Shropshire

Date of inspection: 21 March 2016

Date of last inspection: 28 September 2010

School's unique reference number: 131903

Headteacher: Kay Ferriday

Inspector's name and number: Colin Howard 517

#### School context

St Leonard's Church of England VC Primary School is a larger than average-sized primary, with most children being from white British families. It has 336 children on roll. The percentage of pupils with additional needs is above average. Pupils who attend this school come from its designated catchment, alongside a significant number of children are brought to school by parents and carers from Bridgnorth West, which is outside its catchment. The school has its own nursery. The school's out of hours childcare is offered by a private provider.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Leonard's as a Church of England school are good

- The commitment and drive of the head teacher, staff and governors which leads to consistently high levels of Christian values being present in the life of the school.
- The inclusive nature of the school which leads to pupils being valued, cared for and safe.
- The involvement of the local clergy which promotes a variety of meaningful worship.

#### Areas to improve

- Provide formalized systems to monitor and evaluate all stakeholder's views in order to develop and inform the future Christian mission of this school.
- Allow pupils further opportunities to plan and contribute to acts of worship so that worship may be more fully celebrated.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to reflect in order to develop their spiritual awareness.

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

St Leonard's VC Primary School aims to encourage everyone to 'Enjoy Success' in what is a happy, safe and caring learning environment. Pupils are reminded of the significance of their school's Christian character by the beautiful wooden and mosaic crosses placed throughout the school. St Leonard's is extremely inclusive and clearly nurtures every child to reach their full potential with planned activities such as 'Treasure Gym'. The positive relationships between the staff and pupils are underpinned by strong Christian values such as respect and compassion. This leads to happy, well behaved and responsible pupils who feel valued. The school has a calm purposeful atmosphere where all staff know and care individually for each child and this leads to meaningful relationships. There is a strong sense of a family atmosphere which fosters mutual respect and results in very well behaved pupils. Pupils are hardworking and motivated to learn and reach national standards of progress. The children readily draw links between the school's Christian values and the teaching of the scriptures. Due to the strong relationships with parents and carers the school sensitivity deals with any absence which leads to significantly improved levels of pupil attendance. The school's positive Christian ethos, with its focus on Christian values, allied with the teaching of religious education (RE), has a positive impact upon children's personal, social and emotional development. Pupils are friendly and are extremely courteous. They talk freely of the range of displays that serve to celebrate the school Christian mission such as the Batiks in the Key Stage 1 hall and in the Key Stage 2 Library. Pupils are committed to maintaining their school to the highest of standards. This is evident from their 'eco-work' and by the contribution they are make to the courtyard garden. This area provides a place where pupils can go and as one pupil suggested 'provides a quiet peaceful area'. There is still only a limited range of opportunities for reflection in the curriculum and around the premises to extend the children's sense of spiritual awareness. Parents feel that the school goes out of its way to help those in difficulty whilst also providing 'a moral compass' to guide it pupils. St Leonard's School communicates effectively with its local community using its newsletter 'What's On' where the school's Christian values such as giving are promoted. By actively encouraging the school community to take part in its 'Jam Jar request' linked to 'WWF Earth Hour' pupils are made aware of the need to conserve energy and how by working together or individually people can make a positive difference to God's creation.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**

The planning of collective worship by staff and the local clergy is clearly linked to biblical study and the Christian values derived from this. It serves to affirm the Christian faith both amongst the school's pupils and its staff. Informal systems of monitoring and evaluation of the worship involves members of the school community and this allows the school to reflect upon its progress and areas for future development. The local churches are visited for a range of Christian festivals and services such as Education Sunday and at Christmas. Parents value and have the opportunity to attend acts of worship where they are able to share in the learning and achievement of their children. A focus table and cross is present in the school hall along with a display around the school's agreed values such as compassion. Children are encouraged to take on a responsible role in acts of worship such as organising the music. The pupils currently lack adequate opportunities to plan and lead acts of worship. During the inspection, pupils sang beautifully. The children listened attentively to the core Christian message associated with Easter and the story of the Resurrection of Jesus. Pupils were still during quiet moments and this stillness allowed them time to consider the overtly Christian message of hope. The local clergy

provide for a variety of meaningful, planned acts of worship this includes a Eucharist service. In this act of worship pupils are encouraged to learn about the significance of Anglican traditions. This service is inclusive and offers pupils' the opportunity to receive and share in the 'Blessed Bread'. Pupils have an awareness of the Trinity and they are able to start to talk about this with some measure of understanding. Pupils enjoy and speak positively of the role 'Open the Book' plays in acts of worship and with supporting their emerging sense of faith. Prayer forms a central part in the life of all the school. The many displays in Key Stage 1 encourage pupils to write their own prayers. Pupils are able to recount the many opportunities that prayer gives them to remember and to consider others. The worship policy is regularly reviewed. Achievements are frequently celebrated by staff and pupils whilst 'show case assemblies' serve to allow pupils to display their many talents. The school's work linked to Philosophy for Children allows pupils to consider and respect other individual's points of view. It also allows the pupils to explore aspects of Christian traditions such as the Lord's Prayer.

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

The school is well led. The commitment and drive of the head teacher, staff and governors leads to academic success and very well behaved pupils. The many awards gained by the school, such as 'Safer Schools', pays testament to the determination of school's senior leaders to secure the best outcomes for the pupils. The leadership of the school provides support for newly appointed staff with regard to working in a church school as well as guiding the appointment of future staff. RE is given a high priority by the school and this allows for priorities to be set for its future development. RE and collective worship have time allocated to them in professional development days in order to improve their delivery. Both the RE, collective worship coordinator, head teacher and governors have had the opportunity to go on relevant training to support their leadership roles. Leaders ensure RE, collective worship and aspects of the curriculum contribute to the strong moral, social and cultural development of learners. The positive, strong links between the local clergy and the school serve to enhance the Christian and worshipful life of the school. Pupils are involved in supporting the local community such as the 'Greenfields Community Project'. This as well as their other charitable works such as funding the education of a child in India allows pupils to support the school's Christian mission. The parents talk of a school that has an 'open door policy' and which is extremely inclusive. Parents clearly value the support they receive from the school with issues that may arise from time to time in their lives with regard to their children. Parents are actively encouraged to become part of school life, for example by being invited to attend an 'Easter Craft' afternoon. Parents suggest the school is a place where other people's feelings are considered and where pupils are never forgotten. Although the head teacher and governors gives strong and clear leadership in promoting the school's Christian values, there are yet insufficient systems in place to formally monitor and evaluate all stakeholder's views so as to inform the future Christian mission of this school. The school's leadership have successfully addressed the issues raised in the previous inspection and have detailed and effective self-evaluation.

SIAMS report March 2016 St Leonard's (VC) Primary WV16 4HL

