



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

St Egwin's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Middle School

Worcester Road, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 4JU

Previous SIAS grade: Good

Current SIAMS grade: Good

Diocese: Worcester

Local authority: Worcestershire

Date of inspection: 17 March 2015

Date of last inspection: 15 March 2010

School's unique reference number: 116984

Headteacher: Carol Kennedy

Inspector's name and number: Stephanie Boulter 785

School context

St Egwin's is an average sized middle school with three year groups (6-8) serving the town of Evesham and surrounding villages. The school is oversubscribed and there are 351 pupils on roll mostly from a white British background. The school is in the process of converting to an Academy in the Prince Henry's High School Multi Academy Trust along with six other schools.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Egwin's VC Middle School as a Church of England school are good

- St Egwin's is a caring Christian community where each child is valued as an individual and the headteacher's vision based on love and kindness allows all pupils to flourish and succeed
- Relationships within the school are outstanding as is the behaviour of pupils
- The hard work of all staff ensures that each child thrives
- The leadership of the religious education (RE) subject leader ensures that pupils value RE and develop a range of skills, which they apply successfully to develop a good understanding of the impact religion has on believers

Areas to improve

- All stakeholders to review the school's distinctive Christian character and Christian values and ways in which these are presented to pupils, parents and the wider community so that their influence is fully explicit in the life of the school
- Improve and embed the formal monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the school's distinctive Christian character, RE and collective worship by governors in order to allow for effective strategies for improvement and maintain a strong focus on meeting the needs of all learners
- Develop the role of pupils in leading and planning worship so that they can develop a greater understanding of prayer and reflection and how these can be used as part of their own spiritual journey through life

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

The school community has a good understanding of the Christian values of respect, love and kindness and this results in outstanding behaviour and pupils that thrive, are happy and want to come to school. The excellent relationships between all members of the school community are recognised and praised by parents and is one of the strengths of the school. The school offers a wide range of opportunities for pupils to become responsible citizens and enhance their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. Involvement in activities such as Youth Challenge, School Ambassadors, Young Leaders, Peer Mentors and Pupil Forum encourages them to take greater responsibility and gives them a sense of belonging. These and other initiatives result in pupils who are confident, have a strong moral compass and are willing to engage and serve others in a wide variety of settings. Participation in a range of activities supporting the local, wider and international community such as the links with Dumila Primary School in Tanzania, being part of the Erasmus project and local and global charity fundraising, engender a strong sense of the need to act for justice as well as a developing wish to serve others. One pupil said, 'our Christian values help us to be grateful, to be tolerant and accept everyone and treat each other with respect'. They talk confidently about their enjoyment of school, where they feel safe and valued. Some can relate Bible teachings to their own lives and explain how the Bible can teach us important things. For example, with reference to the parable of the Good Samaritan, pupils spoke about prejudice and not putting yourself first. The importance of the school's Christian values is understood by adults and most pupils but they are not always explicitly linked with biblical teaching. The school maps out its Christian values in all curriculum areas including collective worship. This however does need to be carefully monitored and evaluated to ensure there is an impact on the spiritual development of all pupils. RE makes a significant contribution to pupils' understanding of Christianity and other world faiths. The leadership of the subject is strong and passionate and lessons are taught well and are appreciated by the pupils. Pupil progress in RE is rapid and well thought out assessments ensure pupils understand how to improve their learning. They value the subject and have opportunities for both reflection and asking the big questions in life. This ensures that the SMSC development of pupils has quality and depth.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

Collective worship is recognised as being important in the life of the school community and is valued. Pupils can relate some of the themes of collective worship to their daily life. The Christian values presented in worship are sometimes discussed afterwards, and provoke some reflection. The quality of worship is varied, with Year Six pupils enjoying 'Open the Book' assemblies during which some pupils having the opportunity to plan and lead them. The older pupils find the 'Reboo' worship more thought provoking and two pupils in some forms lead these, although this is at an early stage of development. A termly plan is completed by the headteacher, and is based on the Christian values of the school. There are only limited opportunities for other members of the school community to take on any responsibility for worship, which in turn inhibits creativity and variety. Major Christian festivals are celebrated in school. Parents are invited to attend these services and greatly appreciate the opportunity to share worship in this way with their children. The school community cannot be accommodated in church because the numbers are now too large. There is however a strong relationship with the local church and pupils regularly visit in RE lessons. There is some understanding by pupils of Anglican traditions in worship and the significance of the Trinity in the Christian faith is known by most pupils. There is only a limited emphasis on prayer and reflection and this restricts pupils' ability to relate Christian values and teaching to their own lives and their own spiritual journey. The newly built open air amphitheatre in the school grounds has been used by students and gives another dimension for them to be still and quietly reflect. There is limited formal monitoring and evaluation of collective worship and its impact on all pupils; therefore improvement in the experience pupils have of worship is limited. Pupil

voice initiatives have been used successfully in the past for evaluation of worship and could therefore be a strong starting point to inform future planning and to identify areas to improve the experiences of pupils still further.

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

The headteacher's vision for St Egwin's as a church school is distinctively Christian and has resulted in the creation of a community in which everyone feels valued. This community is made up of individuals who persevere sometimes through very difficult circumstances to show love and the commitment to strive to be the best they can be. The school values every achievement made by its pupils and this is reflected in the positivity of staff, pupils and parents and the loving, caring environment within the school. As a result of this, pupils attain high standards academically and are confident and caring. This importance of each pupil is clearly tangible. RE is valued by the leadership of the school and has a strong impact on each pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Governors are heavily involved in the life of the school and are very supportive of the headteacher and the Christian ethos. However, they have not accessed specific training from the diocese in church school leadership and management and therefore do not fully understand their role and responsibility to regularly, formally monitor and evaluate the impact of the school's distinctive Christian character. Members of staff feel valued and appreciated and their welfare is important to school leaders. This results in a dedicated and motivated staff team who go the extra mile for the students in their care. Recruitment procedures ensure that the values and Christian character of the school are upheld and understood as the school moves forward. Parents speak highly of the school and understand how this church school positively impacts on the development of their children. From local church visits and experiencing other places of worship, they report how pupils appreciate the similarities and differences between faiths and describe how discussions from RE lessons are a regular occurrence at home. All achievements of pupils are recognised and are celebrated. There are opportunities for staff development within the school, which ensure the deployment of the necessary skills for future leadership of church schools. Love and care are core values at St Egwin's and visibly underpin the life of the school. The pupils are confident and care about each other and are prepared to take risks. As a result of the love and support from all members of the community pupils thrive, flourish and often exceed their own expectations. Pupils therefore love their school and the vast and varied opportunities it offers them.

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