



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School

Rowford  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 8JY

**Previous SIAMS grade: Not previously inspected as an Academy**

**Diocese: Bath and Wells**

Local authority: N/A

Dates of inspection: 17 September 2015

Date of last inspection: Not previously inspected as an academy

School's unique reference number: 123792

Headteacher: Duncan Gordon

Inspector's name and number: Muriel Griffiths NS268

### School context

The school is smaller than the average-sized primary school. It has 145 children on roll. Children attending the school come from the surrounding area. The proportion of children who have special educational needs is average. The proportion of the pupils who receive support funded by the pupil premium is just below the national average. The school serves a community where most pupils are of White British heritage and speak English as their first language. Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School converted to become an academy school in September 2013 as part of the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust.

### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School as a Church of England school are good

- Christian values are at the heart of the good care, support and learning evident in the school.
- There is a very strong sense of teamwork, equality and shared working among the whole school community.
- The school has high expectations for every aspect of each child's development.

### Areas to improve

- Provide regular opportunities for children to plan and lead acts of collective worship in order to increase their ownership of this aspect of school life.
- Share the school's core Christian values more fully with the wider school community so that parents can be involved in sharing the promotion of these values.
- Develop the role of the ethos committee to lead the monitoring and evaluation of the school as a church school.

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

Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School is a welcoming, inclusive Christian school community. The school promotes its chosen Christian values (known as Golden values), underpinned by Christian teaching, which are integral to the whole life of the school. These distinctive Christian values have a strong impact on children's academic achievement, personal development and well-being. As a result, children achieve well and the school, with its strong Christian ethos, shows very good awareness of extra support for vulnerable children by close tracking of each individual. Children are able to apply the values to their own lives, explaining that 'being brave' can help them with their learning, when they are working on something difficult. The school has linked each value with a Bible story that demonstrates its meaning and this has helped children to understand that they are based on Christian teaching. The values are covered in depth through collective worship, as an integral part of the curriculum and reinforced by the example set by adults in school. Consequently pupils learn in a safe and secure environment where they are taught to reflect on their own attitudes and conduct. The warm, caring ethos is evident in the excellent relationships enjoyed at all levels throughout the school community. Behaviour amongst all groups of children is good and can be attributed to the way in which everyone understands the Christian values and wishes to live by them. Children clearly enjoy coming to school and appreciate the many interesting and challenging learning opportunities provided for them. As a result, the school's attendance is above national average. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good, effectively supported by a strong Christian ethos, a rich and interactive curriculum, collective worship and religious education (RE). Children listen respectfully to one another as they know that what they say will be valued. This was evident, for example, when a child explained that the crosses around the school 'show that God is always with us in school'. The school provides a number of activities to promote children's spiritual development with reflective areas in all classrooms and around the school. Children especially enjoy 'Mystery Mondays' when they take an object from a box and reflect upon it. For example, after finding a dream catcher in the box, one child had written 'my dream is for everyone to have enough to eat'. Children are active in a number of charitable activities which demonstrate that they want to help to make the world a better place, so demonstrating God's love and care. Children have a good understanding of Christianity as a world faith, as demonstrated through their involvement with an orphanage in Uganda. They have good appreciation of the need to be respectful of others regardless of their background and culture.

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

Collective worship is an important time of the day at Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School. It plays a key role in promoting the school's Christian values. Children learn about Christian values, Bible stories, religious traditions and special days in the Christian calendar in a variety of settings. The school has organised a number of visitors from different churches to come to lead worship which provides good opportunities for children to get to know local Christians. Children have regular opportunities to give their views on worship which show that they enjoy collective worship and learn how to apply Bible stories to their every day lives. One such example was after hearing the story of the Good Samaritan a child commented, 'it teaches us to be kind and it links to our Golden Values'. They comment that they especially like acting out Bible stories and would like to have more opportunities to be actively involved. Children know that prayer is talking to God and know that prayer can be saying thank you, sorry or please. They are pleased to have opportunities to write their own prayers for a 'Prayer Box' used during collective worship, such as 'I am sorry, God, for breaking my promises'. The school is helping children to have an understanding of the Trinity through the lighting of special candles. Children can explain the symbolism of the three wicks as representing God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The inclusion of events in the Christian calendar gives children a secure understanding of the main festivals in the Anglican church year. Some of these services are held in church and parents appreciate invitations to join their children for worship on these

occasions. Children have opportunities to visit a number of churches, which help their understanding of the wider church, They especially appreciate visiting Wells for the Leavers' Service each year, 'Spirit of Wells', which gives opportunities for them 'to think through a variety of issues relating to Christian belief, relationships, values and life as a maturing citizen of both their local community and the world'.

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

The headteacher, staff and governors are united in their desire to strive for continual improvement which benefits all members of the school community. The school's vision is clearly articulated and a community has been created where Christian values are not only expressed but are 'lived out' and are at the heart of the school. The quality of leadership by the headteacher and governors, well supported by staff, contributes greatly to the success of this Church school. Governors know their school well and have a good understanding of its strengths and areas that need further development. An ethos committee is currently being set up and governors have a clear understanding of the need for on-going monitoring and evaluation of the school's Christian distinctiveness. The RE subject leader is very effective in ensuring that the subject plays an important part in the life of the school. She has attended appropriate training from which the school has benefited through the introduction of various new learning initiatives. The school is also involved with the diocese, other schools and church communities to enhance the provision made as a Church school, as evidenced by the introduction of Godly Play and pupil reflective activities. The school leadership promotes distinctive Christian values which are clearly making a difference to the lives of the school community. This is evident in the way that parents talk about the school's values and they would appreciate opportunities to support these values at home. Parents say that they appreciate the fact that the school has a Church foundation and like the links with local churches. They also feel that the school has a family feeling where the children are cared for and supported, which helps them to achieve well. They feel well involved in the school because they are kept fully informed and consulted about the day to day life of the school. The school is developing good links developing with churches and the local community so that there is mutual benefit for all involved. The enthusiasm and commitment by the school's leadership and management ensure that children have every opportunity to grow and develop into mature, knowledgeable and caring young people.

SIAMS report September 2015 Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School Cheddon Fitzpaine Taunton TAI 8JY