

OUTSTANDING!!



Dear Parents,

I am absolutely delighted to inform you that following our Church school inspection in June (known as the SIAMS—Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools), Meriden Church of England Primary School has once again been graded **OUTSTANDING** in all areas!

As a Church of England school, our ethos, vision and beliefs are firmly based on Christian values and these permeate through all aspects of school life. We are thrilled that the work we do and our commitment to valuing the whole child within a supportive and caring Christian school has been recognised.

Below you will find the full report. I hope that you are as delighted with it as we are. However, we will never be complacent and will work on the two areas of development given, as well as continuing to strengthen other areas too.

If you have any questions about this report, please don't hesitate to either ask Mr Beamond, RE & SMSC lead, or myself.

Yours sincerely
Lucy Winkler, Headteacher



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

Meriden Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Fillongley Road
Meriden
Coventry
CV7 7LW

Previous SIAMS grade: Outstanding

Current inspection grade: Outstanding

Diocese: Coventry

Local authority: Solihull

Date of inspection: 22 June 2015

Date of last inspection: June 2010

School's unique reference number: 104087

Headteacher: Lucy Winkler

Inspector's name and number: David Briggs 683

School context

Meriden Church of England Primary School is a smaller than average rural school serving the village of Meriden and its surrounding area. The increase in recent years of pupil numbers has changed the social demographics of the school considerably. There has been an increase in the percentage of pupils eligible for pupil premium funding as has the number of children from ethnic minority groups. The school benefits from a close working relationship with the local parish church, St Laurence.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Meriden as a Church of England school are outstanding

- The highly effective headteacher is committed to ensuring children of all groups achieve their best within a distinctively Christian environment understood by everyone.
- The school is highly effective in supporting and nurturing all individuals within an explicitly Christian environment, resulting in them being able to achieve excellent attainment and progress.
- The school plans effective and engaging experiences in order for children to develop an awareness of faith within a variety of communities, locally and nationally. As a consequence children are able to articulate the significance of faith on the lives of others around the world.
- A special place for learning has been successfully established at Meriden resulting in pupils, staff and parents being proud of their school which is rooted within a thriving Christian ethos.

Areas to improve

- Develop consistent ways of involving pupils in the planning of the year's collective worship cycle in order to nurture their leadership skills.
- Raise the profile of the school's Christian distinctiveness through the use of outdoor spaces in order to enrich children's spiritual development.

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

Upon entering Meriden school there is an immediate sense of the school's Christian distinctiveness. As a result of the warm welcoming attitudes of staff and pupils and the rich displays depicting the school's Christian values, an immediate sense of a Christian ethos is felt. Effort has been made to ensure everyone is on board and aware of the school's aims statement. This is reflected by the school's very recent vision launch; a release of balloons enabled people from far and wide to hear about the school's Christian message. Children of all groups make at least expected progress with many making more than expected progress. This is greatly contributed to by the school's highly effective manner in addressing individual needs swiftly. Such awareness of each child's personal development and wellbeing enables children to feel supported and able to succeed. Relationships between staff and parents are strong. Therefore they speak confidently about how the school's Christian distinctiveness is impacting on children's development both inside and outside of school. Staff make use of learning across the curriculum to enrich children's understanding of the Christian faith. Values are integrated into medium term plans as is the provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC). In RE teachers cleverly weave the school's values into discussions enabling children to explore their relation to meaningful contexts. The senior lead teacher for RE and Christian distinctiveness has carried out a great deal of work on spirituality. As a result of this work teachers understand how to plan and provide time within the curriculum for children's personal spirituality. The school recognises that there is a need to extend spiritual development to the outdoor environment of the school. Behaviour of learners is of a high standard as a result of the work done to establish respect throughout the school for one another. One child in Year 4 commented, 'we are treated equally, my faith is seen as just as important and is celebrated.' The teaching of RE makes a significant contribution to children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development. Children are engaged in their learning, active and able to articulate their thoughts and feelings. A year 1 child related his understanding of the Holy Trinity to another's faith, 'Sikhs have many gods, we have one but in three parts, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.' This shows the children's understanding of Christianity as a worldwide faith and that their respect for diverse communities is well supported. The outstanding partnership between school and local clergy has resulted in a very productive collaboration. This partnership works hard to ensure the Christian vision of the school continues into parish life.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

There is a highly effective relationship between the staff at Meriden and the local clergy. Developments since the last inspection have resulted in well planned worship cycles with an emphasis on pupil participation and engagement. The leadership team recognises the need to involve pupils in the creation of these worship cycles in order to develop their leadership skills. Themes planned are meaningful to the children and enable all to learn from what is experienced. Bible passages are well chosen and therefore enhance the Christian messages being taught throughout the week. Worship is engaging and relevant to the children. As a result they are able to explore each Christian value of the week in depth. All children listen attentively and show an understanding of simple Anglican rituals and symbols, a recent themed week on The Holy Trinity has resulted in the children showing a good understanding of The Trinity by all children. Displays within the hall act as a prompt and reminder to children and adults about the church year. There is also a focal point for children to reflect upon during prayer. Prayer is used effectively and engages the children through their use of spontaneous 'teaspoon' prayers. This way of praying has been introduced by the school's worship group. As a result of the excellent involvement of local clergy, the children are experiencing both Anglican and Methodist practice. All children are experiencing a range of people leading worship enabling children to respond to worship in different ways. High quality experience days led by the church inspire children to engage with significant times of the church year such as Advent and Easter. The children speak highly of those who come in to school to lead worship. The highly effective RE coordinator also

monitors collective worship. He skilfully leads collective worship enabling others to follow his example. Evaluation of worship is used effectively in order to make improvements. Children feel that their opinions about worship are listened to and acted upon.

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

The inspiring leadership team is key to the success of Meriden School as a church school. The leadership team ensure RE is taught to a very high standard and that the school meets its statutory obligation for worship and RE. All stakeholders are supportive of the school's vision being able to articulate it with meaning and conviction. One member of staff stated, 'we want our children to have tolerance, empathy and friendship in order for them to have a chance in life.' Time is given for everyone to be involved in the shaping of the school's vision during times such as the vision launch event. Parents speak highly of the leadership team and their efforts to create a safe environment where the wellbeing of every child is a priority. Parents comment that, 'staff are extremely approachable and problems are dealt with swiftly and in a supportive manner.' Foundation governors work closely with the headteacher, supporting and critically reflecting on developments within the school's development plan. Foundation governors are able to draw upon evidence gathered and have an active part within the monitoring and evaluation process. They feedback findings to the full governing body resulting in them having a clear understanding of the impact of the school's Christian ethos on attainment and progress. The development of Meriden as a church school has been given prominence within the school's learning development plan. The leadership team is investing time and resources into key areas of development such as RE and spiritual development. Professional development for key leaders in the school has proved effective. Good examples include the Church Leadership Programme run by the diocese. This course has proved invaluable in enabling leaders to demonstrate and articulate the school's Christian distinctiveness. Staff are supported extremely well at Meriden which is enhanced by the effective relationship that exists between church and school.

SIAMS report June 2015 Meriden Church of England Primary School, Meriden, CV7 7LW