



CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL  
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist Church** 

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

### Yatton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School

High Street, Yatton,  
Bristol, North Somerset  
BS49 4HJ

Previous SIAMS grade: **Good**

Current inspection grade: **Good**

Diocese: **Bath and Wells**

Local authority: **North Somerset**

Date of inspection: **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Date of last inspection: **22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010**

School's unique reference number: **109214**

Headteacher: **Jo Keeble**

Inspector's name and number: **Steve Ford 764**

#### School context

Yatton Junior School is a slightly larger than average primary school with 296 pupils. It is federated with Yatton Infant School which is on the same campus. It has one executive head and governing body. The Infant school is not a Church of England school. Most learners are of white British heritage. The school has 16% of pupils in receipt of pupil premium and 14% of pupils are identified with Special Educational Needs, both of which are below national average. The school was classified as 'requires improvement' on the last two Ofsted inspections, the latest in January 2015. The incumbent has been appointed within the last 12 months.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Yatton Junior School as a Church of England school are good

- The school actively involves children in their learning and spiritual development
- Links with the local parish church are strong and supportive and involve plans for the future
- The school's Christian values are clearly enacted in the everyday life of the school, recognised, embedded and acknowledged by all

#### Areas to improve

- To ensure that school improvement is secured through support, encouragement and challenge, in a Christian context
- To ensure the Christian nature of the school is clearly reflected in policies and mission statements
- To identify and develop future church school leaders from within the staff, to ensure the school's future development as a church school

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

Yatton Church of England school is an inclusive community, where relationships between all members of the school community demonstrate respect and care. Data presented by the school and validated by the local authority demonstrates that the school is now closing the gap of attainment and progress between the children from disadvantaged backgrounds and others. Teachers and senior staff know individual children's progress well, an example of how they demonstrate the Christian values of love and care for the whole child. One parent commented upon the excellent way her autistic child was cared for and educated. The Christian nature and nurture in the school is explicitly evident in the learning environment and displays, and the well-being of children at the heart of all school activities. Staff and children appreciate the school's Christian ethos and are committed to it. The school has established an Ethos Group, comprising staff, governors and parents and a learners' Ethos Group, to monitor and develop the school's Christian distinctiveness. These, as well as the School Council and Learning College programme all demonstrate the value placed on learner involvement and responsibility. The curriculum is broad and balanced and as a result children of all interests, abilities and levels are able to contribute and succeed. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children is well supported by the curriculum, and enriched by the Religious Education, taught according to the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Children are enthusiastic about RE because it provides good awareness of Christianity and other religions and cultures. They are aware of a broader Christian family at a local level because Anglican, Methodist, and Evangelical independent churches contribute to RE and lead collective worship. They have knowledge of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith with links through various organisations and charities. The children's choice and support for varying charities is indicative of their engagement with the Christian values of love, care and responsibility for others. Attendance is good and parent support for the school is strong. A school survey in 2014 suggests that parents support and appreciate the Christian ethos of the school. 97% of parents agreed with the statement: 'The school promotes worthwhile attitudes and values.' There have been no exclusions in recent years, evidence of the school's inclusive nature and its demonstration of forgiveness and commitment to all children's well-being.

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

Great value is placed on collective worship and its role in affirming and maintaining the ethos of the school. This shared experience is valued by children and staff and is evaluated and developed by them. Learners fully engage with acts of worship which are based on clear Christian values and include reference to the life of Jesus and Biblical texts. There are some outstanding features, for instance the school have identified the Christian concept of the Trinity as a focus this year and this is being explored with the help of local clergy. As a result children are well aware of the Trinity and have an understanding of its significance to Christians. Children are able to talk about core Christian values with frankness and with enthusiasm. They are confident in planning and taking part in worship and this is reflected in requests to lead collective worship. They also assist in reading in collective worship, and providing prayers as well as organising the equipment and music. The establishment of the Learners' Ethos Group has increased the occasions when children lead collective worship. The school has a variety of visitors leading assemblies from the Anglican and Methodist traditions as well as other denominations. The children therefore are made aware of the wider Christian family and have a rich worship experience. Prayer is central to the life of the school; as well as sharing prayers in worship the children are offered quiet areas such as the Jubilee Garden for thought and prayer. There is also evidence of prayer trees and boxes. Children freely talk about engaging in prayer. The prayers written in school are shared with the church prayer group. When asked if the children had a place to reflect and pray one child commented

that, “You don’t need anywhere special you can just bow your head and talk to God”. There is a strong and established system of evaluation of collective worship in place and this has effected much change in the way collective worship is delivered; there is much more learner involvement. Key Christian celebrations throughout the year are held in St Mary’s church. As a result children and staff are aware of some Anglican artefacts, traditions and practices. Parents and families support and join the school at these times. There is a strong link between the church and the school with written plans to develop it further.

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

The school clearly communicates Christian values that are displayed around the school. However these could be more clearly communicated in written documents. The leadership team, governors and staff clearly state how these values impact on the life of the school and promote good relationships between everyone in the school community. The school’s self-evaluation documentation, evidence from the Ethos group and other Christian distinctiveness plans indicate that the leadership maintain a good understanding of the school’s performance and distinctiveness as a church school. The work with the local authority to raise standards of attainment, documentation and plans of various focus groups demonstrate an enthusiasm and capacity to improve further. Behaviour in class is good because teaching is varied and engaging. Children are encouraged to question and explore. The ‘Learning College’ model of child - driven education stimulates children and encourages them to be responsible for their own learning. It enables a rich experience and opportunity for children, valuing and celebrating the variety of children’s God-given gifts and talents. Collective worship is well led and planned and the leader has involved all stakeholders in planning and evaluation of the provision. He has also replenished resources and undertaken in- house training and support for staff. While the RE leader is involved in a teacher exchange the deputy headteacher is leading RE. This has ensured continuity and understanding of the curriculum so that standards in RE remain consistent. There is evidence of monitoring of RE in the school both in terms of quality of teaching and standards of work. Governors are well aware of their duty to monitor RE and collective worship as is evident by the governor minutes and the establishment of the Adult Ethos Committee. Governors visit and evaluate lessons regularly and have ensured that issues from the previous SIAS inspection have all been addressed. Parents, the local church and local community contribute well to the life of the school; the clergy visit regularly. Parents speak highly of the school and contribute to its good reputation because they trust and value the school, its Christian ethos and its potential for Ofsted to judge it a good school. In the past few years the school has been focused on the targets set by Ofsted inspections, and therefore the development of teachers as church school leaders in Yatton and beyond has not had a high priority. The governors through this improvement process could identify potential and provide opportunities for training and development. More effective use of diocesan and other opportunities to develop staff could be adopted in order to ensure continuity and consistent improvement. The statutory requirements for collective worship and RE are being met.

SIAMS report June 2015, Yatton Church of England VC Junior School, Yatton BS49 4HJ