

Findings of Section 48 Inspection of Religious Education in Derby Diocese Church of England Schools 2016/17

37 Schools inspected 13 of which are VA schools. Of the VA schools 54% were judged to be providing OS RE, 38% Good RE, 8% satisfactory Re and none were judged to be inadequate. The following strengths and areas for improvement are taken from reports of both VA and VC schools.

Strengths

- The varied experiences of worship, the world-wide church, other faiths and cultures built into the religions education (RE) curriculum which promote understanding and respect.
- Pupils enjoy and are challenged by Religious Education so that it has a major role in strengthening the Christian character of the school.
- Religious education (RE) is delivered by enthusiastic and well informed staff. It provides many fruitful opportunities to promote children's spiritual development and enhances the Christian character of the school.
- The significant work in the development of the Religious Education (RE) curriculum makes an excellent contribution to pupil's understanding and appreciation of the Christian faith.
- Religious Education (RE) makes a good contribution to children's understanding of the Christian faith.
- High quality collective worship, RE and the strong relationship with the local parish form a solid foundation for the Christian life of the school. (x4)
- The school's broad curriculum contributes effectively to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of learners.
- Through the high priority given to religious education (RE) and collective worship, pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) ensures that they become mature, sensible and caring individuals and that excellent relationships exist throughout the school community.
- The planning, delivery and evaluation of religious education (RE) and collective worship is highly effective. This leads to children who enjoy the challenge of thinking about big questions, which inspire and help to deepen their understanding.

Areas for Improvement

- Embed the materials from the Understanding Christianity resource in order to supplement the current curriculum and deepen the pupils' understanding of the Christian faith.
- Strengthen the work already begun to develop 'Understanding Christianity' within Religious Education so that it impacts on the wider life of the school
- Display RE prominently in each classroom to underline its importance in a church school.
- Further enhance children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development by embedding the new Understanding Christianity resource in Religious Education (RE).
- Enrich the monitoring and assessment of RE so the regular gathering of evidence across all age groups informs pupil progress and the quality of teaching and learning in RE, enabling good practice to be shared.
- Embed the monitoring of RE by governors as an important part of Christian distinctiveness. This enables them to gather evidence of the impact of new resources deepening pupils' knowledge and understanding and nurturing their spiritual journeys.
- Continue to improve the already good rate of pupils' progress in RE, throughout the school, so that a greater proportion of pupils reach the highest levels of attainment.
- Integrate the *Understanding Christianity* resource within the religious education curriculum so that children are enabled to develop their enquiry skills and deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and its global diversity.
- Develop an assessment system for religious education (RE) so that tracking of progress in RE is included in termly pupil progress meetings.
- Strengthen the teaching of Christianity, through a wide range of higher level enquiry skills, by engaging in the Understanding Christianity programme.
- Build on the strong enquiry led focus of questioning to strengthen children's learning skills of evaluation and reflection in RE.
- Plan staff development of significant theological concepts in Christianity to improve religious education (RE).
- Professional development needs to be in place to ensure the leadership and management of Religious Education and collective worship are a priority within the school.

Full SIAMS reports can be found at
<http://derby.anglican.org/education/schools/inspections/>