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Blandford Education Trust

Blandford St Mary CE Primary School, Blandford St Mary, Dorset DT11 9QD  
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Headteacher: Mr Daniel Lasbury-Carter BA (Ed) Hons.  
'Love, Hope, Respect, Perseverance, Responsibility'

**Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report**

Dear Parents / Carers,

Please find attached with this letter the recent outcome of the SIAMS inspection, held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December by Mrs Anna Willcox on behalf of the Church of England Education Department.

Firstly, it is very important to note that as the inspection has taken place within a year of our Ofsted inspection, we were only ever able to achieve 'Inadequate', or a 'Satisfactory' grading for the school.

I am very pleased to be able to inform you that the school did exceptionally well and not only did we meet the criteria for this category, but in the focus area of Christian Distinctiveness, we achieved a 'Good' grading.

In summary:

- The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners;
- The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory;
- The effectiveness of the religious education is satisfactory;
- The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is satisfactory

Therefore, the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Blandford St Mary CE Primary School as a Church of England school are satisfactory.

As you will see from reading the report, the improvements and the rate of change at the school is not only recognised but celebrated. A few key points are listed below:

- *Clearly defined core values, which are distinctively Christian and well-known by all members of the school community, are a strength of the school. Children's understanding of these and their biblical foundation are well developed through collective worship;*
- *When discussing recent improvements in behaviour at the school one child identified that "the values encourage people to behave better";*
- *Children with special educational needs and disabilities feel supported and included in every day school life. As a result of the personalised support packages which have recently been put in place, progress is clear and children are able to talk about how they are making improvements;*
- *All members of the school community are very positive about recently introduced visits to church for special acts of worship;*
- *Teaching in the lessons observed demonstrated good subject knowledge;*



- *The distinctively Christian nature of the school's vision and values is clearly articulated by school leaders. The biblical roots of these values and their relevance to the school have been carefully and thoughtfully planned in order for them to have maximum impact on the children and school community. As a result, these have become quickly embedded and are already impacting on all aspects of school life;*
- *One parent said, 'My children are always happy to come to school.' Another commented, 'It's a warm place to be.' Parents were positive about the way the whole school community had 'pulled together' to become stronger during a recent period of turbulence.*

These are only a few of the many positive elements of the report.

This report is testament to the incredible hard work, determination and commitment the school and its community has for developing and continuing on its journey of improvement.

It is undoubtedly a team effort and the inspector has noted that the commitment to improvement runs through every element and every person in the school: pupils, staff, parents, governors and with the developing relationship with Jonathan Triffitt at Blandford Parish.

Although this report and inspection does not reflect a 'Good' overall judgement, it is confirmation that we are well on our way to achieving that goal.

A great many thanks go to everyone involved in the inspection day – for giving their time so graciously – and to everyone who has played a part (past and present) in the on-going improvements at Blandford St Mary. It is through working together that we are learning and growing to help everyone at Blandford St Mary to be the best that they can be.

If you have any questions about the inspection process, or about the report, please contact the school office.

Kind regards and a very happy Christmas.



Daniel Lasbury-Carter  
Headteacher