Ysgol Bro Dewi Church in Wales Voluntary Aided school
Nun Street,
St Davids
Pembrokeshire
SA62 6NU
Diocese: St Davids
Local authority: Pembrokeshire
Dates of inspection: 16th and 17th October 2014
Date of last inspection: October 2008
School’s unique reference number: 668 - 3310
Head teacher: Mrs Samantha Vaughan  B.Ed. (Hons) NPQH
Inspector’s name: Mrs Daphne J. Evans J.P. B.Ed. (Hons)

School context
Ysgol Bro Dewi V.A. Church in Wales School was built in 2001 and the school provides education for pupils aged three to eleven years old. The catchment area encompasses St. Davids and stretches to Carnhedyrn to the east and Solva to the south. At the time of the Inspection there were 93.5 (FTE) pupils. There are four full time teachers and one at 0.5 who provides release time for the Head teacher. At the time of the Inspection two teachers were on sick leave. There is one HLTA, five full time LSAs and two part time LSAs. Very few pupils come from bilingual homes where Welsh is the predominant language spoken, the vast majority are from English speaking homes. The catchment area is neither economically or socially disadvantaged. 18% of the pupils have additional learning needs and currently 5.6% of pupils receive free school meals.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Ysgol Bro Dewi as a Church in Wales school are GOOD.

Ysgol Bro Dewi has an extremely active working relationship with the parish of St. Davids. The school classrooms and playground have panoramic views of the Cathedral and both the Dean and Canon Dorrien Davies are closely involved in the day to day life of the school. Strong links are being established with the Cathedral’s Education Officer and with Ty’r Pererin which is almost next door! The school’s internal environment clearly demonstrates the school’s status as a Church in Wales School and the school’s mission statement and aims clearly express the school’s foundation based on Christian values. Worship is well structured and delivered and children are actively engaged. Pupils are courteous and conscientious and staff members are good role models. Academic standards are generally high and safeguarding is prioritised throughout the school. 95% of parents surveyed believe that the school is a place which is built upon clear Christian values.

Established strengths
- Pupils’ behaviour both in the classroom and in an informal setting is exemplary.
- The school’s close and harmonious working relationship with the parish and city of St. Davids.
- Pupil participation has enabled the pupils’ voice to impact positively on the life of the school including school improvement strategies.
- The after school enrichment programme, Xtra Bro Dewi.

Focus for development
- Plan and create new opportunities for prayer and reflection in the external environment
- Review the external signage and all school documentation including the prospectus, website and policies to ensure that they reflect clearly the school’s Church in Wales status and its Christian ethos.
- Align the Religious Education Syllabus with the Christian Values programme
- Develop an age appropriate School Liturgy to use in Collective Worship and special services.

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

The Mission Statement and aims of the school clearly define the school’s Christian character and ensure that Christian values are promoted at all times. Very close links with the Cathedral and its clergy and with Ty'r Pererin provide an inspiring introduction to the life of the Anglican Church. By playing an active role in the life of the school the clergy support its academic attainment as well as the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. One parent confirmed ‘Our three children at Ysgol Bro Dewi have strong Christian values nurtured by the school’.

School Council members were aware of the school’s Church School status and how this makes their school special.

Throughout the school building there are lovely wall displays and prayer corners which convey the Christian message, portray Bible stories and promote the Christian heritage of Wales including Welsh saints and Celtic crosses. The Values for Life tree, the altar and the candle mural provide excellent focal points in the School Hall. The external signage and grounds could acknowledge and provide a more distinctive Christian environment with increased opportunities for prayer and reflection. However the view of the Cathedral and the surrounding coastline already symbolise the wonder of God’s creation. The playground ‘messy kitchen’, the imaginative playground equipment and the playground buddies all contribute to a safe, stimulating environment which all pupils clearly enjoy.

Attendance has improved considerably and is now exceeding the target set of 95%.

The pupils' behaviour is exemplary and visitors are treated with courtesy and respect. Interventions to improve relationships and raise attainment are positive and effective and have a significant impact on standards. A recent Local Authority audit notes that lower ability pupils make good progress. Standards of achievement are good. Lessons observed were well planned and delivered with clear differentiation to meet the needs of all learners. Some of the teaching observed was of an excellent standard.

Standards in Welsh have improved significantly over the past two years and the school’s Recorder Ensemble was placed first in the Urdd National Eisteddfod 2014.

Xtra Bro Dewi provides an enrichment programme which is sector leading and targets skills development in all areas of the school curriculum. 80% of sampled pupils reported that they had developed skills in activities which were new to them.

100% of parents surveyed agree that the school has effective links with the church and other faith communities.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is GOOD.

Three different types of worship were observed: Worship led by the Head teacher, a Celebration Assembly and worship led by Canon Dorrien Davies. In each case the worship was well planned and executed and the pupils were fully engaged and contributed enthusiastically. Canon Dorrien has a real affinity with children and his humour and enthusiasm are infectious. Parents referred to Canon Dorrien ‘as a good Christian role model’. He has contributed significantly to the school’s review of Collective Worship and the new Collective Worship Policy which emerged as a result is sector leading. Children’s views were included in the review and influenced the policy update. Regular monitoring and evaluation should now be further developed with all stakeholders actively involved.

The Collective Worship observed was distinctively Christian with the altar, candle and bible repeatedly
used to create an atmosphere of reverence. The older children had a sound knowledge of the Trinity. The School Hall has lively murals of saints, a large painted candle, and a stained glass window with the Diocesan crest, a large Values Tree and a wall display showing the school's links with Lesotho. Collective Worship is used to set the Values Programme in a Christian context. Carefully chosen music at the beginning and end of worship adds meaning to the gathering of pupils and staff and lively children’s hymns were enjoyed by all present. All staff attend and participate in Collective Worship and thus provide excellent role models.

A new Order of Service is soon to be introduced following Anglican liturgy with a child friendly approach. Hopefully, this will also see increased opportunities for parents to share in school worship.

The pupils’ personal spirituality is being developed through the use of artefacts, Anglican greetings and responses, prayer and reflection and visits to the cathedral and local chapel. Pupils help to prepare the School hall for worship, choose the songs, play musical instruments and write their own prayers. A Harvest Focus day at Ty'r Pererin was thoroughly enjoyed by the pupils who attended and enabled pupils to share their worship with pupils from other local schools.

Opportunities for informal prayer and reflection are being developed in classrooms and there is a Prayer Table in the school foyer as well as a notebook for pupils to contribute their own prayers.

The Christian heritage of St Davids permeates the entire school curriculum and the internal environment of the school. Pupils take a full and active role in the life of the city and the cathedral. One parent commented ‘The school has excellent and strong links with the Cathedral’. This is a strength of the school. It could now be extended to the Christian heritage of Wales through links with schools in other Dioceses.

81% of parents surveyed agreed that pupils find Collective Worship a valuable experience.

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**The effectiveness of the Religious Education is GOOD**

The school’s R.E Policy is well written and refers clearly to the Christian ethos of the school. The assessment grids are a useful tool for monitoring however levelling of pupils’ work in R.E. needs to be further developed. Reviewing and monitoring should happen on a regular basis to maintain rising standards.

The quality of both teaching and learning is good on the whole with some outstanding teaching and Christianity is being taught effectively. The children’s’ books are well marked with positive feedback and they demonstrate the pupils’ developing knowledge and skills. Pupils were able to articulate their knowledge and beliefs in class. The Values Education Programme enhances the R.E Scheme of Work and staff make appropriate informal links between the two. However this could be further developed by fully aligning the Values Programme to the Church in Wales Syllabus. The Summary Scheme of Work sent out to parents each term reflects good practice and keeps parents well informed about the curriculum being followed by their child.

Year Six pupils demonstrated an excellent ability to locate stories and texts within the Bible. These texts were differentiated by colour and linked to Generosity as the current value for the term. The plenary session was used to good effect with pupils showing an excellent understanding of the facts taught; they were able to use key vocabulary confidently and understood the time sequence of events.

Corridor displays of bible stories and texts placed strategically around the school reinforce learning in Religious Education and make the crucial link between Collective Worship and R.E.

81% of parents surveyed agreed that the school keeps parents well informed about the work pupils do in Religious Education.

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

The Head teacher has been in post for twelve months and during that time she has worked with the wider leadership group including staff, governors, clergy and other stakeholders to implement a dynamic School Improvement Plan. The Head teacher and Deputy Head teacher have a clear vision to move the school forward by developing the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of all pupils and by a continuous effort to raise standards of attainment through the monitoring of lessons and
reflective practice. The Deputy Head teacher has been involved with a Local Authority working group seeking to challenge more able and talented pupils. The school provides well for ALN pupils and this has had a significant impact with the attainment of many now in line with their peers. There is equally good support for LAC pupils. The weekly Celebration Assembly reinforces positive behaviour, a strong work ethic and the school's overarching Christian values.

Well-being is a key priority for the Leadership Group and the introduction of 'Check In' to measure daily self-esteem, the ongoing impact of the Values for Life Education Programme, the introduction of Restorative Practice and Emotional Literacy Support Assistants which have already had a positive effect on both pupils and staff plus effective interventions following analysis of the PASS data all combine to create a happy, courteous, hardworking school. Safeguarding is prioritised by all who work either in or on behalf of Ysgol Bro Dewi and the school has focussed on the role of School Governors by providing training on Whistleblowing and Local Authority Safeguarding procedures.

Parents are kept well informed through regular school newsletters which give details of Special Services and key events in the Church calendar. A parent commented 'Ysgol Bro Dewi is a fantastic school which supports, cares and guides every individual pupil. Pupils are taught to respect each other and strive to be the best they can be'.

Evaluation and Strategic planning plus the timetable for monitoring are all in place. The Governing Body is actively involved in setting the school's strategic direction and the introduction of Cornerstones provides an excellent framework for medium term planning. A new format for lesson planning has been introduced and all staff members are aware of the need for their delivery to have pace and meaningful differentiation as this has a powerful impact on pupils’ learning.

Pupil participation is a strength of the school, The School Council is very inclusive and the minutes of its meetings feed into the School Improvement Plan. The school is currently completing assessment for the Pupil Participation Kite Mark following recommendation by the Local Authority. School Ambassadors have recently been elected and pupils are enthusiastic about sustainability projects and global citizenship. The School’s link with a school in Lesotho is a valuable mechanism for encouraging pupils and parents to share values and understanding with a third world country in a very inclusive, non-judgemental way.

The Head teacher and Cathedral and parish clergy have created a Focus Group to seek new ways of bringing the Church to the School and consideration is being given to future Eucharist services, Baptism, Confirmation, the Child friendly Liturgy mentioned earlier, after school clubs and the involvement of choral scholars in the school’s music curriculum. The school interacts with other Church schools through its involvement in the work of the Diocesan Education team but further links could be developed with church schools in other parts of Wales and further afield.

Leadership is clearly shared at this school and it was a pleasure to witness the genuine commitment and teamwork of all staff members including the Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Learning Support Assistants, the School Caretaker, Administrative Officer, Cooks and Playground Supervisors.

100% of parents surveyed agree that the school ensures links are made with the local community and 90% agree that the school encourages pupils to consider people in other countries, and how they can help assist them, when help is required.

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<th>The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship</th>
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Gwella Judgement Recording Form (GJR)
This form is to be returned (with a copy of the inspection report) to the Diocesan Director of Education and the Gwella Administrator (karenkaneen@churchinwales.org.uk)

Name of school: YSGOL BRO DEWI VOLUNTARY AIDED CHURCH IN WALES SCHOOL  
Address of School: NUN STREET, ST. DAVIDS, PEMBROKESHIRE SA62 6NU  
School Number:  
Date of inspection: 16/17 OCTOBER 2014

Type of Church school: VOLUNTARY AIDED CHURCH IN WALES  
Number of pupils: 93.5 (FTE)  
Phase of education: PRIMARY

Has Diocesan Quality Assurance been obtained for this report? YES  
Name of Critical Reader: MRS JEAN VOYLE WILLIAMS MBE

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<tr>
<th>How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church school?</th>
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<td>How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?</td>
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<td>How well does religious education contribute to the Christian character of the school?</td>
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<td>What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?</td>
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<td>How effective is the religious education?</td>
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<td>How effective are the leadership and management of the school, as a church school?</td>
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