

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Baltonsborough Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Ham Street
Baltonsborough
Glastonbury
BA6 8PX

Diocese of Bath and Wells

Somerset County Council LEA
SIAS inspection: 16 November 2005
Previous S23 inspection: 13, 15 March 2000
URN: 123740
Headteacher: Lesley Fenwick
SIAS Inspector NS#120: Rosemary Bartlett

Context

Baltonsborough Church of England Primary School is situated at the heart of its village community. The three-class attractive and well-maintained school buildings enjoy a delightful setting alongside the village hall and pre-school, with the Parish Church of St Dunstan's nearby. Families are also drawn from a number of neighbouring villages.

Summary Judgement

The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England School is good. The positive leadership of the headteacher and her whole team, together with the close partnership with the local Parish Church, contribute well to the overall provision for the children.

Established strengths

- This is a caring school community founded on Christian values and fully committed to the welfare and development of all pupils.
- The pupils are happy and secure.
- The headteacher and senior management provide clear leadership for the dedicated and effective staff team.

Focus for development

- Further develop the pupils' contribution to acts of collective worship
- Establish the planned indoor reflection area
- Formulate strategies for assessment in religious education

How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?

The contribution of the school's distinctive Christian character towards meeting the needs of all learners is good. The school's fundamental Christian values are well reflected in the recognition and appreciation of each child's situation, strengths and needs. Parents value the individual attention given to their children and the personal care at times of particular need such as school transfer and bereavement. Pupils' efforts and achievements are recognised and displayed on the Let's Celebrate board by the school entrance. Relationships across the school community are based on respect and consideration. Teaching and non-teaching staff work effectively together for the benefit of pupils. Pupils speak enthusiastically of the buddy and partner systems, which enable them to make friendships across the age range. Pupils take pride in their school and appreciate the attractive and informative displays as well as the outdoor facilities. They clearly value the Quiet area, with scented bushes, seating and a bird hide. Pupils have been much involved in school plans for an indoor Reflection area

What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?

There is a well-established framework for school worship which overall is satisfactory. A daily act of worship is held within a variety of groupings and there are prayers in class before lunch and at the end of each day. The school has strong links with the local clergy who lead an act of whole school worship each week. There is also a weekly Christian after-school club as well as a lunchtime club, both run by Church members. School worship on special occasions is held in the Parish Church, to which members of the local community are invited. The school also takes part in special events, such as the Carol Service and Leavers' Services at Wells Cathedral. Pupils are developing an understanding of Anglican faith and practice through worship and through their regular visits to the Parish Church in which they take pride. Pupils are attentive and receptive in school worship. They value the opportunities within worship for "a moment of quiet to think about what I have done". They also speak appreciatively of participating in productions in church. The school plans to further develop pupils' contribution to worship.

How effective is the Religious Education in the school?

Staffing, resources and curriculum time for religious education are appropriate. The school follows the revised Agreed Syllabus and is now planning to formulate and implement strategies for assessment. The school provides opportunities for staff in-service training and makes good use of Diocesan Resources Centre. Pupils are interested in the informative and attractive displays of RE within classrooms and around the school. Effective teaching and learning in RE were observed during the inspection. The Parish Church, its people and building, are a well-used resource for RE and the school has also benefited from the contribution of a family from another world faith.

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

The leadership and management of the school as a church school are good. The headteacher and senior management team of the school contribute significantly to its success as a church school. The school's Christian foundation and vision is well reflected in the Christian symbols displayed both outside and inside the school. The strong team spirit of the whole staff is evident in their daily interactions and in their shared commitment to the welfare and progress of all the children. Staff clearly feel valued and play a full part in implementing the school's vision. The school's Golden Rules are displayed in all classrooms and shared areas. Class charters also reflect well the school's underlying Christian values. The governors work in close partnership with the staff and there are good and growing links with the church. Parents are regularly consulted about matters of current interest. They clearly value the availability of the headteacher and staff and speak of the school with appreciation and pride.