

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Barlestone Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School and Community Centre

Barton Road

Barlestone

Nuneaton

Warks

CV13 0EP

Diocese of Leicester

Leicestershire LEA

SIAS inspection: 30 November, 2 & 7 December 2005

Previous S23 inspection: 29 September, 8 October 2003.

URN: 120111

Headteacher: Ms. S. Bovill

SIAS Inspector NS#168: Mrs. W. T. Martin

Context

Barlestone C. of E. Primary is a Voluntary Controlled School and Community Centre, serving the villages of Barlestone and Osbaston. The original building dates back to the 1900's, but this has been extended at various times. The number of access points to the building means that security is an issue, which the school manages very well. The grounds are well cared for, and some pupils are involved in making them attractive through membership of the school gardening club.

There are 189 children on roll, from Foundation Stage to Year 6. 20% of pupils are on the SEN register, with 4 children having statements of Special Educational Needs.

Children are taught mainly in single year group classes, though due to large numbers in Keystage One, Yrs. 1 and 2 are vertically grouped.

A large cross on the wall of the entrance hall serves to show that this is a church school.

The Head teacher has been in post since September 2004.

Summary Judgement

The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England School is satisfactory.

Established strengths

- Pupils are secure and confident in school.
- The staff and Vicar of St. Giles Church work closely together.
- Relationships between the school and the other village churches are good.
- The head teacher has a clear vision for the school.
- Parents value the opportunity to become involved in school life, and to share in acts of worship.

Focus for development

- Include a short period of stillness and reflection during worship.
- Develop a policy for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, to ensure consistency.
- Establish strategies for monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship.
- Strengthen the use of display, to convey to all that this is a Church school.

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

Barlestone School's mission statement and aims clearly indicate a commitment to holistic development for each child. This is in line with the Christian ethos of the school. The school has a warm, welcoming atmosphere, and both pupils and adults clearly feel valued as individuals, taking pride in their involvement. Wider use of Christian displays would enhance the ethos as a Church School. The school strives to meet the needs of all learners, and the School Improvement Plan shows commitment to continue to enhance provision for all pupils.

The School Council is involved in decision making, and pupils feel confident to go to members with their problems, secure in the knowledge that issues will be followed up.

Members of the School Council feel well supported by staff, and enjoy undertaking various responsibilities to enhance the life of the school.

The recent introduction of R-Time has been beneficial in developing strong relationships between pupils, helping them to value and affirm each other.

Members of the gardening club work enthusiastically to enhance the school environment, and a sheltered memorial garden provides a place for quiet reflection for pupils. A living willow igloo is enjoyed by younger pupils.

What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?

Daily worship forms an integral part of school life, and is clearly inclusive for all pupils and adults. A candle is lit to provide a focus for worship, and normally, appropriate music is played while pupils enter and leave, though broken equipment prevented this during inspection.

Pupils clearly enjoy the experience, and talk about bible stories they have enjoyed and class presentations they have been involved in. They listen attentively, and are eager to answer questions, demonstrating a mature, thoughtful attitude. Periods of stillness and reflection would further enhance the experience.

The head teacher provides a list of themes for each term, which follow the Christian calendar, and indicate a variety of visitors, who provide a good range of presentations. Monitoring and evaluation would ensure consistency. Parents are invited to class assemblies, and value the opportunity to be involved. The time of worship sessions has recently been changed, to make it easier for parents to attend. Parents also attend school celebrations, such as Harvest Festival, Carol Services etc. in St. Giles Church.

The Vicar leads Collective Worship one day per week, emphasizing the Anglican foundation. She is clearly valued as a member of the school community, and welcomes the opportunity to be involved. Pupils in the Reception class recently enacted a wedding, conducted by the Vicar, in Church. Celebration assemblies are an affirmation of both individuals and groups or whole classes, providing an opportunity for the whole school to celebrate together. Parents of individuals are often invited when their child's achievements are recognized.

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

The new head teacher and the management team are providing strong leadership, and have begun to use the recently provided Self Evaluation Toolkit for Anglican Schools to analyse their effectiveness as a church school. They have a clear vision for the future.

The strong partnership between the church and the school is having a significant impact on the school's success. Links with the other churches in the village, and with the local community further enhance the life of the school. Parents and pupils are regularly consulted on matters relating to the school, and their views are respected and valued.

The Christian ethos is evident in the way pupils are cared for and incidents of bullying are dealt with. The recent introduction of R-time serves to underline this care and concern for each individual. A wide range of extra curricular opportunities gives every individual an opportunity to experience success.