

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Bathwick St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Darlington Road

BATH

BA2 6NN

#### **Diocese of Bath and Wells**

Bath & North East Somerset Council LEA

SIAS inspection: 9th November 2005

Previous S23 inspection: March 2000

URN: 109246

Headteacher: Mr Kevin Burnett

SIAS Inspector NS#127: Wendy Simmons

### **Context**

Bathwick St Mary's Church school has seven classes ranging from Reception to Y6. The school serves an area of the city with a large number of privately owned houses. The majority of children enter the Reception class with higher than the average abilities expected for their age. Some pupils speak English as a second language but they are fluent in English. A small number of pupils are eligible for free school meals.

### **Summary Judgement**

Bathwick St Mary's is an outstanding Church school with a very strong Christian ethos which permeates all aspects of school life. This is due in no small measure to the commitment, hard work and care of the head teacher and the whole staff team.

### **Established strengths**

- Strong links with the Church and the local community
- The vision and values of the school are rooted in Christian belief and principles.
- Pupils feel able to share their opinions within a caring supportive learning environment.

### **Focus for development**

- Continue to foster and develop pupils' spiritual awareness and understanding.
- Continue to develop opportunities for pupils' understanding of international cultural issues.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners very well. The school makes outstanding provision for all pupils from their entry to the Foundation class and throughout both Key Stages standards are high. Pupils are taught the Christian values of love, care and respect for one another. This is evident in the playground where the 'blue hat' system of older children mentoring younger ones operates effectively. Parents speak highly of the school, the staff & the governors. They are aware of and fully support the school's Christian status. The pupils flourish in a happy environment, they are confident in sharing their opinions and views, knowing that they will be valued as individuals. There is provision for a wide variety of activities and the school offers many opportunities to take part in local and international charitable activities and fundraising. Pupils would be helped further by investigating the cultural context of the charities they support.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding. Daily worship is integral to the life of the school. It is inclusive and relevant to all pupils, staff, parents, governors and visitors who may be present. Worship is very well planned according to the school policies and there is a wide variety of resource material to support the programme. The co-ordinator involves the rector in the planning process and he leads worship every fortnight. He also conducts a school Eucharist for Key Stage 2 three times a year which is attended by parents. Classes help lead and participate in each Eucharist according to a class rota. Other staff members lead worship regularly. Pupils speak positively and reflectively about school worship. They are familiar with the Lord's Prayer and a number of Anglican responses.

**How effective is the Religious Education in the school?**

Religious Education is outstanding and central to the ethos of the school through its vision and values and integral to the spiritual development of all pupils. The co-ordinator has worked hard to provide curriculum plans which support the Agreed Syllabus. This is reflected in resource provision, scrutiny of work and monitoring of teaching and learning. Assessment is fully embedded and the portfolio of work is testament to the pupils' knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity. The planned programme also provides knowledge and understanding of other faiths including Judaism, Hinduism and Islam. Pupils make good and excellent progress and speak confidently about their learning and how it contributes to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

**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 outstanding. The quality of leadership is central to the success of the school as a church school. The headteacher's inspirational leadership is supported by a staff team committed to Christian principles. The governors provide tangible support in the management of the school. The headteacher and governors have an excellent relationship with the wider church community who support the school in many ways during the school day and by organising extra-curricular clubs. The school has strong links with the Diocese and other local churches. Parents believe the distinctive Christian ethos has a positive impact on the pupils. Teachers and support staff have very good relationships with the pupils. A number of examples were observed where children ask questions or seek advice from the wide variety of adults in school to support them. Children leave Bathwick St Mary's as well balanced caring young people ready for the wider world.

SIAS NOVEMBER 2005 Bathwick St Mary CE VA Primary School, Bath, BA2 6NN