

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Beckley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Main Street  
Beckley, Rye  
East Sussex  
TN31 6RN

**Diocese: Chichester**

LA: East Sussex

Dates of inspection: 13 and 14 June 2006

Date of last inspection: February 2001

School's Unique reference number: 114490

Headteacher: Margaret Hufford

Inspector's name and number: Anne Hanney

#### School context

Beckley Church of England Primary School is situated in the village of Beckley. It has been oversubscribed for the last three years. It is housed in a well maintained Grade 3 listed building but there is no hall for worship, indoor P.E. or other school and community events. The children come mainly from Beckley but also from its surrounding villages, such as Northiam and Brede. Some families are dependent on public transport and cannot access clinics and agencies easily when requiring help for their children.

There are four class teachers and eight teaching assistants. There is no deputy headteacher. The headteacher is the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and for three years she has had class responsibilities.

#### Summary Judgement

Beckley Church of England Primary School is a satisfactory church school with many strengths.

#### Established strengths

- The implicit Christian values which underpin all aspects of life in this church school, creating a Christian ethos which clearly recognises the worth of each individual and promotes very good relationships.
- The very high quality of collective worship observed and the importance pupils place on daily worship.
- The outstanding social and good moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils.

#### Focus for development

- To develop the vision statement by making specific reference to the school's church school status and by using an explicit visual approach to expressing its Christian ethos within written policies and school displays.
- To involve more staff in leading worship on a regular basis.
- To involve the clergy, governors, pupils and staff more in the monitoring and evaluating of the quality of collective worship.

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

The needs of learners are well met within this church school. Christian care for one another is evident in the staff and pupil relationships throughout the school. Pupils' attitudes to one another are also inclusive. Year 6 pupils said of their headteacher that "she is always there boosting our confidence". A great strength of the school is the independence it promotes in each pupil. This is encouraged by the experience of residential trips available to Key Stage 2 pupils and the "Enterprise Week" established by the school. When Harvest gifts are taken to the church it is the pupils who arrange them. Pupils vote as to which charities should receive their donations and clearly their voice is respected and contributes to the development of their school. This ability to articulate their views whilst respecting those of others, provides

evidence of the pupils' well developed social and moral skills. Their spiritual and cultural development is fostered through teaching and worship based on the love of God, the inclusive nature of their school and celebratory cross-curriculum weeks such as the recent "Arts Week". Children's work, particularly class made books, provide evidence of Christian values. The vision statement needs more specific reference to Beckley School's Christian foundation. It should be readily available for all to see around school and reflect the Christian values evident in school practice.  
Grade 2

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

Collective worship is viewed as central to the school's life and the planning for it is well organised and recorded. Christian material provides the main resources and a candle and cross are used regularly and effectively to encourage reflection by the pupils. As there is no hall, the Year1 and 2 classroom provides the place for whole school worship and despite the inconvenience to these pupils, the good organisation and pupils' exemplary behaviour promotes an atmosphere conducive to worship. Other pupils enter and leave in a quiet calm manner and participate with confidence throughout. Differentiation for older pupils is clear when they are encouraged to follow up worship through class or individual research. They take up this challenge as could be seen in the work on "praying hands" delivered to the headteacher during the inspection.

The pupils interviewed expressed their enthusiasm for collective worship and placed much value upon it. This was reinforced by their response within the collective worship observed and their clear accounts of other celebrations and services such as the Easter Passion play. Sadly, the Rector has had a number of long term illnesses over the years, when he has not been able to lead worship at the school. The headteacher has sustained the momentum of development and has been a very effective worship co-ordinator. She has welcomed and made good use of both help from the Vice Chair of Governors in organising the Christingle service and from the resident or retired clergy when available to lead worship. The monitoring and evaluation of collective worship should be developed further to sustain good practice.  
Grade 2

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

Both the headteacher and Vice Chair of Governors articulate a vision for the school that reflects its Christian foundation. Parent questionnaires and pupils' comments support their recognition of the school's church school status and their appreciation of its Christian teaching. Staff are supportive of the Christian ethos and their R.E. displays of different faiths make reference to the Christian foundation of the school. However, more explicit reference should be made in school policies and reception areas of the school to the Vision Statement and Christian Foundation. Although the school attends special services at All Saints Church, some parents have expressed their desire that stronger church links should be established to support the school. The governors could support this by ensuring that the vacancy for a new Foundation Governor is filled and that the work of the worship co-ordinator is supported by a rolling programme of regular visits by clergy and other practising Christians to lead worship.  
Grade 3