

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Belton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Sadlers Wells
Belton
Loughborough
Leics
LE12 9TS

Diocese: Leicester

LEA: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 2nd and 3rd March 2006

Date of last inspection: 1996

School's Unique Ref: 120144

Name of Headteacher: Mr R. McDermott

Inspector : Mr Andrew Gilroy (007)

School context

Belton CE VC Primary School is a small rural primary school of some 64 pupils serving the village of Belton plus a number of children from outside the catchment area whose parents/carers have chosen to send their children to the school. The school consists of three classes covering the age range from four years to ten years at which point children transfer to the local high school as part of the Leicestershire three tier education system.

Summary Judgement

A strong ethos of Christian care and concern for others underpins the work of this successful primary school.

Established strengths

- Through aims which are rooted in Christian values, the school makes good provision for pupils of all abilities to all aspects of worship, learning and personal development.
- Worship is recognisably Christian and draws strongly on the school links with the local church, especially through the contribution of the church staff.
- Christian values are reflected in behaviour and discipline.
- The attainment of the children is good across the curriculum.
- There is a wide range of extra curricular activities, which enhances the educational experience of the children.
- The very good relationships that exist between those working in the school and the vicar and parish church of St John the Baptist.

Focus for development

- As the school reviews all its documentation over the next three years, ensure that the true Christian vision and character of the school is acknowledged and celebrated.
- The staff and governors should formally monitor both the provision and the impact of Collective Worship on the learners.
- Provide appropriate training for the recently appointed Foundation Governor to enable her to fulfil her specific role within the governing body.
- Acknowledge the importance of RE and Collective Worship in a church school by placing them alongside the core curriculum subjects in the planning for the future development of the school.

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

Through its distinctive Christian character, the school is good at meeting the needs of all learners. Based on aims which are rooted to Christian values, Belton CE VC Primary School makes good provision for learners of all abilities. It is a happy school where children enjoy their learning and are eager to describe the exciting things that they do each day.

The children are kind and helpful; they play well across the age range and are concerned for the well being of others. The school has a good record of charitable giving and support people in the local community, which the learners speak about with compassion. The

children feel valued and talk with pride about their achievements collectively and as individuals. These are recognised at the weekly celebration assembly that strongly demonstrates the value of and commitment to pupil achievement in all aspects of school life which is appreciated by both parents and children

The children play together well at break times using a good range of equipment purchased by the parents association at the request of the School Council. Currently the School Council is in negotiation to provide an adventure trail for the school.

The children expressed a strong belief in the commitment and fairness of the staff.

Parents speak of the school as being happy and secure, where their children are respected and that they enjoy their time in school.

Parents feel that they are given very appropriate time with the head and staff when raising concerns, which are then addressed properly. They like the ethos of this Church of England school and are keen for their children to be taught in such an establishment.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory. Worship occupies a secure place in the life of the school and acts of worship are consistently at least of sound quality. Worship is recognisably Christian and draws on the school links with the local church, especially through the contribution of its staff. All the teaching staff and other adults that are normally present in school attend and take part as worshippers. Learners find the stories, including those from the bible interesting and many relate them to their daily lives.

Learners show enjoyment of worship and talk about it with interest. They regard themselves as welcome members of the local Church community. They are familiar with the local Church and regularly experience of worship in it. The vicar takes collective worship each week and once a month the whole school goes to church where the classes in turn take the service which makes good use of their talents, intellect and experience. Pupils know about the Church Year and the key Christian festivals, which are also celebrated in church. These services are very well supported by parents and friends. There is good use of prayer in the school. In addition to a time for prayer and reflection during collective worship, the children and staff have contributed their own prayers for use as grace each day prior to eating lunch.

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 satisfactory. The quality of leadership contributes significantly to the success of the school. Parents feel that the school has a special quality that enables learners of all backgrounds to flourish as individuals. Good interpersonal relationships reflect the distinct Christian values, which are consistently promoted and reflected in behaviour and discipline. The recently appointed Foundation Governor is developing her role within the governing body to enable her to support the development of the distinctive aims of this Christian school.

The headteacher listens to the views of others and evaluates the work of the school carefully. In this way the school is well placed to develop its Christian foundation.