

Bemerton St.John Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Lower Road

Bemerton

Salisbury

SP2 9NW

Diocese of Salisbury

Wiltshire LEA

SIAS inspection: 8 December 2005

Previous S23 inspection: March 2001

URN: 126434

Headteacher: Ms. Cherie Taylor

SIAS Inspector NS 109: Sandra Symonds

Summary Judgement

Bemerton St John's is a satisfactory Church school with a clear capacity for major development which has already been instigated by the recently appointed headteacher.

Established strengths

- Clear vision of the Head Teacher and the Governors for the future development of the school as a Christian Establishment
- Pupils who are caring and supportive of each other
- The good relationships within the school.
- The strong focus on improving the standards of work

Focus for development

- To continue to develop the Christian Ethos in the school so that it clearly underpins the raising of standards
- To further develop the system for the evaluation of worship to enable it to contribute to enhanced school improvement
- To raise standards in R.E. by adopting the new syllabus and by focusing clearly on the learning objectives, using the assessment data to inform teaching and learning.

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

The school makes satisfactory provision to meet the needs of all its learners. Most of the learners feel valued and special. The school is developing a sense of Christian identity that is beginning to impact on the pupils. They make good progress in their personal development and there is a focus within the school to attain a similar level

of progress in their academic work. The staff consistently promote pupils' self esteem and the whole school is beginning to recognise the importance of this. The fairly new school council is providing pupils with good opportunities to raise and resolve issues. It has been successful in negotiating an outdoor, seated quiet area for promoting pupils' reflective skills. The opportunities for spiritual and moral development are growing and pupils are beginning to gain an understanding of this area of the curriculum as a result. Children of other faiths are also well supported. Relationships within the school community are characterised by Christian care and concern for others.

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

The impact of collective worship is satisfactory. It is beginning to occupy a central place in the life of the school and is also making an increasingly important impact on pupils' developing self awareness and their place in the world. The head teacher and local clergy are supportively planning the worship. This enhances the provision for worship.

Visitors from the community, such as The Bridge Project, provide additional worship experiences which have an impact on the pupils' understanding of the Christian faith and practice. It was clear that they are developing a sense of helping others, of fairness and of forgiveness through these acts of worship. The church is used for special times such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers' service.

How effective is the religious education?

The attainment of the pupils and the quality of the teaching are satisfactory. The governors and senior management recognise the importance of religious education and ensure the provision of appropriate staffing, curriculum time and learning resources. The relatively new co ordinator is about to introduce the new Locally Agreed Syllabus to the school and has a clear vision for the future of the subject through the assessment systems.

The school is now in a very good position to develop this subject further as a core subject. The children showed positive attitudes to R.E. and the children of different faiths were given clear respect and consideration. Discussion with pupils showed that they remembered well those lessons that were imaginative and well resourced. The school has recently held a special week RE through Art, where the whole school focused on art work. This provided a very visual impact, e.g crosses on woven material, fish and a whole school creation story project .

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

The leadership and management are good. The head teacher and governors have a clear vision of the distinctively Christian character of the school. They work in close partnership in order to achieve this. The head teacher is committed to developing the full potential of all members of the school as partners. This was seen in the recent "Visions and Values" meetings held with parents, where the future of the school was under discussion. The views of governors, parents and pupils have been sought on how the school can develop. The results of this have been included in the present school improvement plan. Parents feel that pupils' needs are accommodated and their views listened to. All members of the school are aware of its church foundation and speak appreciatively of the Christian Ethos. The school is working on its Mission Statement. It also has a central theme "Taking pride in all we do" recently adopted. The school has links with the local Parish church and the incumbent regularly leads worship in school. The school uses the church for Festivals. As part of its Christian ethos the school supports several charities including the Trussel Foundation and a collection for meningitis linked to a local family. As a result pupils have an understanding of care and responsibilities to others, upholding the school's values. The school has just achieved its Healthy Schools Award and has a good programme of out of school clubs and activities that the children can be involved in.

SIAS DECEMBER 2005 Bemerton St. John CE VA Primary School, Wiltshire, SP2 9NW