

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Accrington, Benjamin Hargreaves Church of England Primary

Barnfield Street,

Accrington

BB5 2AQ

Diocese of Blackburn

LEA: Lancashire

SIAS inspection: January 25th, 2006

Previous S23 inspection: February 2000

URN: 119441

Headteacher: Pauline Mallaby

SIAS Inspector NS: Neville Norcross

Context

Benjamin Hargreaves Primary School is situated within an area of mixed housing on the outskirts of the Lancashire town of Accrington. Some parts of the area are facing economically and socially challenging circumstances. On entry to school the majority of pupils have skills which are below the national average. The number of pupils in school with special educational needs is broadly in line with the national average.

Summary Judgement

This is a very good church school which, through its distinctive Christian character, makes a significant contribution to the personal and academic achievement of all pupils.

Established Strengths

- The distinctive Christian ethos which has a positive impact on all pupils, parents and staff
- The strong partnership which exists between the leadership team and the school governors
- The planning and organisation of the daily act of collective worship

Focus for development

- In order to build on current standards, introduce a system of assessment in religious education
- Ensure that the standards of written work in religious education are at least as good as those being achieved in literacy lessons

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

The way in which the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners is good. The results of questionnaires given to children and my discussions with children during the inspection, show that they feel valued and secure. The members of the School Council are involved in the school decision-making process and feel they make a difference to what goes on in school. Pupils' achievements are valued through the school's system for rewards which are given for both good work and good behaviour. The children have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of out-of-school activities and these together with other opportunities to share their talents and successes enable them to grow in confidence as they progress through school. Their social development is very good. They have excellent opportunities to take part in events which involve the church and the wider community. The children give enthusiastic support to a wide range of charities which further enhances their social development. The children are given opportunities, through religious education, to understand the cultural diversity of the Christian faith. The quality of relationships between all members of the school community are very good and this has a positive impact upon the children's achievements and their sense of self worth. The entrance area to school is quite small but every opportunity has been taken to make the school's Christian foundation clear to visitors to the school. A notice board in the entrance hall has information about both school and church activities. The new outdoor play area provides valuable opportunities for children to explore the wonder of creation.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. The school is committed to the provision of high quality collective worship which enriches the lives of the whole school community. Daily worship provides an opportunity for the whole school to share its Christian values and to promote its Christian ethos. The planning and organisation of worship are outstanding. The headteacher and the link governor for worship meet together regularly in order to plan the worship programme. This helps to ensure that the daily worship covers a broad and balanced range of themes which include the church's year and suitable Christian concepts.

The children have a positive attitude towards worship. They enjoy the daily worship and join in enthusiastically with singing and prayers. They are often given opportunities to take part in the presentations. Each day the hall is sensitively prepared with fresh flowers, a cross, a candle and other artefacts. This, together with opportunities for quiet reflection, provides valuable opportunities for spiritual development. A visitor commented on the impact which a recent act of worship had had upon him. The organisation of worship enables the school to develop the pupils' understanding of Anglican faith and practice. Church liturgy is introduced sensitively and there are many opportunities for the children to worship in the church itself. All members of staff attend daily worship and this demonstrates to the children that this is an important feature of school life.

How effective is the Religious Education in the school?

The effectiveness of religious education is good. Religious education is seen as a very important feature of the school's distinctiveness. The co-ordinator is enthusiastic about her work in the subject and the link governor actively monitors and supports her in this role. The creative use of the Diocesan syllabus ensures that the children receive a broad, balanced and interesting programme of religious education. Religious education makes an important contribution to the pupils' moral development. The school's behaviour code is based upon Jesus' teachings about forgiveness and reconciliation. This enables the children to have a strong sense of right and wrong. The pupils' spiritual development is enhanced when they are given opportunities to reflect on challenging issues. Religious education is an important feature of school life. This can be seen in the quality of the displays around school, the high level of resources for the subject and the work of the link governor. When the children are set challenging tasks, the standards achieved are at least as good as national standards. The school's systems for assessing children's achievements in religious education are at an early stage of 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 good. The headteacher and foundation governors promote a distinctive Christian vision. They have begun a process of evaluation of the school's distinctiveness and have a strategy for responding to any issues which may arise. The

vision is made clear to all staff and they in turn support the vision. The school is very good at gathering and then responding to the views of all members of the school community. Pupils in years 4 and 6 take part in the annual Pupil Attitude Questionnaire and parents have also taken part in surveys during the past 2 years. The responses to these surveys shows a high degree of satisfaction with the school. The surveys in themselves, demonstrate to members of the school community that their views are valued. The links between the school and the church are very good. A successful after-school care club is based in the church institute. The club is registered with Ofsted and managed by the church . The school governors work very effectively to ensure that the Christian distinctiveness of the school is maintained and this helps the pupils and parents to understand that they belong to a caring Christian community. One parent spoke in very complimentary terms of her appreciation of the level of care shown by both the school and the church.

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