

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Berkswich Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Cedar Way,  
Walton,  
Stafford  
ST17 0LU

#### **Diocese of Lichfield**

LEA: Staffordshire 860

Dates of inspection: February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006

Date of last inspection: June 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2000

School's Unique reference number: 124234

Name of Headteacher: Mr Martin Holmes

Inspector's name & NS number: Mrs Rosemary Shepherd 294

#### **Context**

Berkswich CE Primary school is a very popular school and has recently achieved an outstanding report from Ofsted inspectors, for which we offer our congratulations.

#### **Overall Judgement**

Berkswich Church of England Primary (C) School is a good school. It has outstanding features. Children are lovingly nurtured by the Christian values which are very evident in the life of this school.

### **Established strengths**

- Inspirational leadership of the headteacher is exemplary and underpins the Christian ethos of the school.
- Excellent relationships are evident within the whole school community.
- The school provides a lively and challenging learning environment, which celebrates the work and achievement of children.
- The dedicated staff work happily and effectively as a team and are supportive of each other.
- Children are confident and eager to discuss their work. They converse knowledgeably about stories from the Bible and write their own prayers for times of worship.
- Sensitivity to persons of other faiths is apparent and their needs are recognised and appreciated.
- There are good links with the three churches in the parish and the vicar has a high profile in the school life, leading a weekly time of worship for the whole school and often taking follow-up sessions in the classroom.
- Children have a very positive awareness of the needs of the wider community through their support, each year, of several charities both local and world wide.
- Good channels of communication exist between school and community through a monthly school newsletter and a termly class newsletter.
- Parents hold the school in high esteem.

### **Focus for development**

- Clarify the difference between assembly and worship to staff and children.
- Develop spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of worship.
- Consider rearrangement of the school hall to enhance worship time and provide a focus which promotes thought and affirms the Christian nature of the school.
- Reconsider the possibilities of KS1 and KS2 worship times to improve more appropriate provision for each age group.
- Enhance resources of collective worship material for staff and children.
- Further develop the planning and recording of worship.

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

The impact of the distinctive character of the school in meeting the needs of all its learners is outstanding. The school makes excellent provision for all its learners who feel valued and special. The school environment gently surrounds its community with appropriate and meaningful Christian symbols, artefacts, displays and messages, so raising the awareness of God's world and their place in it. Children are very confident and welcoming, eager to relate stories from the bible which they understand and which they can aptly apply to happenings in their lives and in the world today. The Lord's Prayer, known by all children, is displayed in each classroom and is also inscribed on a beautifully designed bench in a delightful outdoor area designated for quiet activity and reflection. Children recognise the value of this special place. Relationships throughout the school are excellent and characterised by the Christian care and concern for others.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. Collective worship is consistently and recognisably Christian and honours the Anglican tradition. Worship is enjoyed by the children and they look forward to the active participation of the vicar whose presence in school, it is intended, will also help to stimulate growth in the local churches. Children are encouraged to lead worship and given the responsibility to prepare and plan their presentation from the planned focus for the week.

Six children were prepared for confirmation last year and it is planned to introduce a Eucharist Service for Year 6 in the summer term 2006. Worship occupies a secure place in the life of the school. It extends some of the excellent work done in RE and enables children to participate and lead. The school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of other faiths, but a spiritual dimension to worship is lacking and should be nurtured to enable the spiritual development of all.

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

Leadership and management of the school as a church school is good. The good quality of leadership from staff and governors contribute significantly to the success of the school. The leadership of the headteacher is outstanding and governors and staff rely heavily on the example he sets as a Christian leader. School documentation highlights the Christian foundation of the school and the recent Government initiative 'Every Child Matters' has been extended to include;

“Make a positive contribution to school and to speak appreciatively of the Christian ethos and values that are promoted and respected”.

This is displayed in every classroom and around the school corridors. Parents appreciate the accessibility of the headteacher and the staff and feel that the school has special qualities that enable learners of all backgrounds and faiths to flourish as individuals.

SIAS February 2006 Berkswich Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School Stafford ST17 0LU