

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Blewbury Endowed Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Westbrook Street

Blewbury

Oxon

OX11 9QB

Diocese of Oxford

LEA: Oxfordshire

Dates of inspection: 14 March 2006

Date of last inspection: February 2000

School's Unique reference number: 123167

Name of Headteacher: Ms M Mills

Inspector's name and NS inspector's number: Mrs M Powell NSIN: 143

Summary Judgement

The School is successful in promoting a Christian ethos, which is recognised and valued by the community.

Established strengths

- The personal development of pupils, ensuring that they acquire a sense of self worth.
- Productive links with the local church, which respect Anglican traditions and the foundation of the school.
- The social and cultural development of pupils that help them to acquire a valuable global perspective.

Focus for development

- Continue to develop the reflective aspect of school worship through ensuring a consistency of expectation across class and key stage worship.
- Continue to evaluate how learning in religious education may further enhance the quality of worship.

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

The school meets the needs of its learners well, in keeping with the Christian ethos. A well-established system of values underpins the care and support given to the pupils. As a result, the vast majority of pupils speak of their school with pride and eagerly grasp opportunities to involve themselves in the very broad range of activities available. A clearly written Behaviour policy ensures that rewards are abundant and that sanctions are set within a framework of forgiveness and the belief that "tomorrow is a fresh start". Relationships within the school are positive and pupils develop a strong sense of interdependence and also of membership of and service to the community. Equally, the school works hard to promote an awareness of global issues. The pupils show great interest in communities to which they are linked through the Comenius project. They are eager to be of service to them and equally are appreciative of what they receive in return.

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

The impact of collective worship is satisfactory but with some elements that are developing to a good standard. This represents an improvement since the last inspection.

The school, with the full support of the Church is continuing to review its worship practices to ensure that the spiritual element grows and that pupils experience lively, interesting periods of worship that engage their active participation. As a result, during periods of whole school worship most pupils are attentive and reflective. The lit candles and other visual foci, together with music as pupils arrive are effective in creating an atmosphere of calm and reverence. Pupils spoke enthusiastically of termly services held in church and of opportunities to contribute in a number of ways, for example, serving at the school Eucharist. Older pupils spoke of the "special feeling" when they participate in pilgrimage and celebration at the spot where Saint Birinus preached.

The new coordinator for religious education and the headteacher are seeking to develop further opportunities for learning in religious education to have a greater impact on the quality of worship. In addition, changes to teaching staff have led the school to begin to reflect on the consistency of expectation and attitudes to worship across classes and key stages.

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

The school as a church school is well led and managed. The headteacher and governors have a well defined vision of what constitutes a Christian ethos. A recently revised School Prospectus provides a strong picture of the school's mission and aspirations for its members. A good effort is made to ensure that the local community, including the parents, understands the core values of the school. The school has a strong view of itself as a resource for the community and appreciates the contribution the community makes to the school. For example, the participation of local clergy in leading worship and in religious education lessons is highly valued. The school curriculum is well led and managed to raise the pupils' awareness and to develop their appreciation of the lives of children elsewhere in the world. The senior staff are well aware that as a result of staff changes, careful monitoring of the impact of worship and the contribution of religious education must be regularly reviewed and evaluated.

SIAS Report March 2006 Blewbury Endowed Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School Blewbury Oxon OX11 9QB