

**Breadsall Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Moor Road

Breadsall Village

DERBY

DE21 5LA

**Diocese of Derby**

Derbyshire LEA

SIAS Inspection : 13,17 October 2005

Previous S23 inspection: October 2000

URN: 112805

Headteacher: Mrs. Gail Goodman

SIAS Inspector NS 126: Mrs. Susan Seward

**Summary Judgement**

Breadsall Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a very good school with many outstanding aspects ranging across its spiritual, moral, social and cultural life. There is a profound sense of friendliness, vital energy, true accomplishment, constructive curiosity and genuine caring amongst the learners who have risen to the challenge of the school's mission to encourage all to realise their full potential. In addition to this, relationships within the school community and between the school and parish are firmly rooted in Christian values that shine out for all to see and feel.

**Established strengths**

- The active Christian ethos of the school that informs the values and aspirations of all those working within its community;
- The outstanding quality of leadership from the Head Teacher, staff and Foundation Governors;
- The very good relationships between all those working in the school and the parish church.

**Focus for development**

- Continue to strengthen links with the parish church;
- Continue to strengthen the work done to develop the learners' understanding of cultural differences, especially those related to the Anglican world-wide communion;
- In the school's future development plans continue to consider the unique aspects of Collective Worship whilst maintaining its integration with curriculum areas.

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

A Christian ethos informed by Anglican structure and values is at the very heart of this school as seen in the relationships between all those involved. All learners are secure in the knowledge that they count as individuals and there are good systems and opportunities in place to give reward and celebrate achievement. Adults in the school are good at placing learners' work and play in a Christian context by appropriate words, caring actions and creating visual displays that focus their minds on spiritual and moral values. Learners are encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings in a quiet and considered manner in a positive environment where all relationships are conducted in an inclusive and welcoming family atmosphere. Learners' social skills are well developed and the school has initiated a number of good projects to introduce cultural diversity. To meet the challenges of school life, good use is made of outside resources such as the parish church and village amenities, as the size of the school building and grounds is not conducive to modern curriculum demands. Although the school environment presents these challenges, they put considerable thought into utilizing space to further the Christian ethos as can be seen by the 'friendship stop' in the playground for those who feel vulnerable and by the banners based on Christian symbols produced by the embroidery group.

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

Collective Worship is conducted to a good standard and is a very important part of school life, where learners spoke of it in a positive manner to an outstanding degree. A member of staff has responsibility for worship and, over time, has developed management systems to ensure the quality and profile of this part of school life. The very close links with the parish church ensures a strong Anglican presence and coupled with the Christian foundation of the school, helps to inform the policy, planning and organization of worship which is well thought through. These are supported by a good range of artefacts and materials designed to stimulate learners' thoughts. Monitoring of worship is consistent and well managed. All learners use the variety of focus for worship in classrooms and the small hall in a familiar, natural and relaxed way to guide and inspire them. The learners' contemplative life is reinforced by prayer not just during Collective Worship but throughout the school day and this encouragement to discover an inner spiritual life is underscored by hymn singing of a very high standard. All worship leaders were seen to share their knowledge and understanding of Anglican values and Christian faith in a way that provoked a positive response. Very good use is made of the parish church for curriculum work and the celebration of the Church Year and the learners were seen to be comfortable spending time there. The attitude and behaviour of the learners was illustrated by a comment by one child who said, 'I need Collective Worship. It's calming. I need to be calm at the beginning of the day. It means the day makes sense.' The agreement round the table was serious and total.

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

The Head Teacher, staff and Foundation Governors provide outstanding leadership of this school as a church school giving it clear purpose and direction. Foundation Governors are experienced educationalists who dedicate their time to supporting the school through sharing Anglican practice, leadership of Collective Worship, engaging in training and by actively promoting strong links with the parish. All staff are fully committed and involved in creating a positive Christian ethos for the school, and their own ideas and perspective are valued. The opinions of learners, parents and others are encouraged. There is significant feedback from parents and others via the school's frequent interaction with the community. Learners rise to the challenge of charity fundraising to engage with those in need well and demonstrate the values by which the school sees itself. All of this is overseen by a Head Teacher, whose outstanding leadership skills are exemplary illustrated by her creation of a special award for achievement in memory of a church minister family member, as inspiration for the learners.

SIAS OCTOBER 2005 Breadsall CE VC Primary School, Derby, DE21 5LA