

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Brewood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Middle School

Brewood,  
Stafford,  
Staffordshire,  
ST19 9DS

**Diocese: Lichfield**

LA: Staffordshire

Dates of inspection: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006

Date of last inspection: 2000

School's Unique reference number: 124452

Headteacher: Mrs. C A Robotham

Inspector's name and number: Mr. Mark Cooper

#### School context

Brewood Middle School provides education to 9 – 13 year old pupils. This well maintained school is situated on a quiet road, within the pleasant rural village of Brewood. Pupils come from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, travelling in by bus from the surrounding areas. There are a lower percentage of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds, pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities, and those eligible for free school meals, than average.

#### Summary Judgement

Brewood is an outstanding school. Parents and pupils speak overwhelmingly in support of their school, Headteacher and Teaching Staff. They are 'proud' of their school and recognise it is a privilege to be apart of its community. High expectations are the norm, fully supporting the school motto, 'Achieving is Believing.' This together with the strong Christian 'family' ethos makes this an exceptional school that cares for all those who 'work' and 'play' there.

#### Established strengths

- The Headteacher's outstanding leadership
- The overwhelming support and commitment from parents, governors, teachers and pupils
- The strong links between church and school
- The exceptional work of the Worship Co-ordinator
- The strong Christian ethos that pervades the whole school community
- The positive relationships between all those who 'work' and 'play' within the school

#### Focus for development

- Develop a Brewood Creed that encompasses the school's Mission Statement and pupils' views about their school
- Make explicit the pupil's positive opinions and display them to enhance the environment of the school
- Christianise the schools 'Every Child Matters' agenda reflecting the Christian belief that all are created in the 'image of God'
- Fulfil the vision of the proposed sensory garden

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

The impact of the school, through its distinctive Christian character, in meeting the needs of all learners, is outstanding. Immediately from entering the school a strong Christian character and atmosphere pervades. The Christian ethos is encompassed within the school's Mission Statement and is supported by well-established, resourced and organised worship programme and strong links with the local church and clergy. Pupils are encouraged in Christian beliefs and principles through the school's Golden Guidelines and the God Rock Club. A number of staff, through their example, act as Christian exemplars. The school sees itself as a 'family' underpinned by Christian principles, values and practices. The impact of this on pupils is their awareness that they belong to a special place. They say, 'This is a great school, it is the best school you could get, the teachers are always there for you.' They recognise there is a bond resulting from the ownership of Christian values. One Year 8 pupil expressed this by saying; 'We are like one big family, brothers and sisters together.' This is a school that clearly follows the Christian ethic of caring for all those who are a part of it. The teachers and pupils are proud to say that the school never gives up

on those with challenging circumstances. Because everyone is given opportunities to succeed pupils feel valued, safe and secure. Pupil/teacher relationships are very good. Pupils feel they can openly approach their teachers for advice and help. The impact of this is the calm way pupils conduct themselves around the school. Through its charity work the school has a tradition in reaching out to those with needs beyond its own community. Pupils say, 'We want to help those who don't have as much as us.' As a result the School Council has proposed twinning with a school in Africa.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding. The collective worship is exceptionally well managed by a worship co-ordinator who is passionate about what she does. It is an integral part of what makes the school such a special place and underpins the Christian ethos that pervades throughout. An allocated budget, a clear development plan, the willingness of staff and pupils to get involved and meetings between the Co-ordinator and Headteacher further illustrate the value that is placed upon worship. The impact on pupils is shown through the way they respect and conduct themselves during worship and the value they place on the time for reflection and their reflection diaries. The worship programme emphasises the Christian tradition, whilst taking into account other faiths. Pupils are able to articulate Biblical teachings and are keen and enthusiastic about worship and are willing to take part. Pupils believe worship provides them with the opportunity to learn about 'morals' and 'good behaviour.' One Year 5 pupil said, 'Worship gives me a warm feeling inside.' There are links between worship and the teaching of Religious Education, both reinforcing the other, which enables pupils to gain a deeper understanding of the Christian faith and other religious traditions. There are established links between the school, church and clergy. The worship programme has built within it experiencing worship at the local church. The vicar is a regular participant in school collective worship. Pupils commented, 'He prepares well and his assemblies are fun.' All pupils know that he is a regular visitor to the school and find him very approachable. Staff, governors and parents are also keen to be involved. Parents in particular are involved in Form Worship. Pupils therefore recognise, that if the adult members of their school community value worship, they too should value it and take it seriously.

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

The leadership and management of this school, as a Church school, is outstanding. The Headteacher is a visionary. It is her enthusiasm, commitment and drive that sets the pace for this school. This is recognised by the Governors, Clergy, teachers, parents and pupils. Teachers and pupils feel secure and affirmed in their role. This has resulted in an ethos of high expectations that is shared by all. There is an excellent induction programme for teachers, and pupils are able to achieve their full potential through effective management, teaching and support. Pupils' views, through the School Council, are taken seriously. Parents and pupils speak overwhelmingly in support of the Headteacher, Teaching Staff and the school as a whole. This is enhanced by the effective working relationship between the school's governors, clergy and senior management of the school. Governors and parents are 'proud' of the Christian Foundation of this school. All clearly support the Christian ethos that makes this school such a special, and effective, place to work for both teachers and pupils. As one pupil said, 'I am lucky to come here, the school is something special.'

SIAS report July 2006 Brewood Middle School, Brewood, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST19 9DS