

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Bulwell St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary and Nursery School**

Ragdale Road

Bulwell

Nottingham

NG6 8GQ

**Diocese: Southwell and Nottingham**

LEA - Nottingham

Dates of inspection – 13<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Date of last inspection – November 2003

School's Unique reference number - 122740

Name of Headteacher – Mr Philip Ball BA Cert Ed

Inspector – Mrs Jane Lewis NS - 27

#### **School context**

This is a medium sized primary school with a nursery unit, serving an area of Nottingham City, which is of high social and economic disadvantage. More than twice as many pupils are eligible for free school meals as the national average. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties is slightly above the national average as is the number of pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds

#### **Summary Judgement**

Bulwell St Mary's is emerging as a distinctive faith school and its effectiveness as a Church of England school is satisfactory. It is led by a Head Teacher and Governing body that have a clear vision for the school to move forward as a Church of England school. A developing Christian ethos brings positive values to the school and this affects attitudes to teaching, learning and pastoral care.

#### **Established strengths**

- The school has a clear Christian vision and high expectations, and is building successfully on the strong foundations laid by the Head Teacher and Governors.
- The school has excellent links with the local church to the mutual benefit of both school and church.
- Christian values underpin the relationships in the school between pupils and their teachers and pupils and their peers.

#### **Focus for development**

- Review, with the support of the Diocese, the content of acts of Collective Worship to ensure a greater depth of spirituality.
- Improve pupils' spiritual development by providing more opportunities both in the curriculum and around the school, for pupils to reflect.
- The Head Teacher and Governors, with the support of the Diocese, should annually carry out a self-evaluation with regard to its distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England school.
- Make more specific reference in school policies to the Christian ethos, which underpins the life of the school.

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

The school makes good provision to meet the needs of all its learners. The Christian ethos in the school is strong. Everyone in the school community is encouraged to show Christian values. Pupils feel valued for who they are and not just what they can achieve. The school community show care for one another. A pupil was bereaved in sudden and tragic circumstances. Her peers supported her in thoughtful ways. Staff showed concern for one another in the way they supported each other through a time when the school was judged to have 'serious weaknesses'. Whatever their religious faith pupils' moral, social and cultural development is good with pupils being able to express what they had learnt about Judaism and Buddhism through a recent International week. At present spiritual development is less significant.

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

The impact of Collective Worship is satisfactory. Acts of worship take place in a well-organised environment and they are generally well planned. There are times when the school comes together to acknowledge pupils' achievements. At the moment these are not worship experiences. Class teachers take responsibility, along with the Head Teacher, for leading worship. The worship is generally Christian and draws on the schools links with the local Church. The vicar visits regularly and school services take place in Church a number of times a year. These are important times for the pupils.

Pupils enjoy the contemporary Christian songs that are being incorporated into worship. The Lord's Prayer is said in each act of worship, however when asked to talk about this prayer pupils show little understanding of it.

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

The leadership and management of the school as a Church school is good. The Head Teacher and Governors leadership has a clear Christian purpose, expressed in the schools mission statement and in the school prospectus. They have a clear set of values based on forgiveness and reconciliation, which are central to behaviour management. These values focus on the development rather than punishment of the pupils. The impact of this is a culture of praise and reward. There are strong and fruitful links with the local church. Members of the church come into school to help in practical ways and the Head Teacher regularly writes for the Parish magazine and attends church services.

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