

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

East Brent Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Church Road,
East Brent,
Highbridge,
Somerset
TA9 4HZ

Diocese: Bath and Wells

LA: Somerset

Dates of inspection: 10 July 2006

Date of last inspection: December 2000

School's Unique reference number: 123809

Headteacher: Mrs Heather Hector

Inspector's name and number: Miss Susan Barton - 162

School context

East Brent Church of England School is a small first school with 84 children on roll who enjoy their idyllic rural setting. Children are welcomed from both the village and further afield. There are twice as many boys as girls in every year group as well as a small number from other ethnic backgrounds. There has been significant disruption in every class in the last two years due to staff illness, however, all staff are back insitu.

Summary Judgement

East Brent School is a good church school with a distinctive Christian atmosphere in which to educate all its learners. The values of sharing and caring for others are a strong part of the school's mission statement and expectations are high. It provides all the children with a positive and effective Christian foundation on which to build throughout life.

Established strengths

- The leadership of the headteacher in striving to improve the quality of Christian education in the school.
- The confidence with which children discuss religious issues in a safe and secure environment.

Focus for development

- Develop a programme of themes for worship over a longer period and record what actually happens each day.
- Formalise the checking and evaluation of worship to ensure that the planned programme of themes meets the needs of all learners present and ensure all worship in the week is distinctively Christian.
- Enhance experiences of aspects of Anglican faith and practice for learners.

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

The distinctive Christian character of the school is good and meets the needs of all learners.

The strong Christian ethos is evident throughout the school and emphasises the Christian family atmosphere where adults and children are valued. Children refer to the school as being a place where we love and care for God and help others. Religious education and worship are strong contributors to the spiritual and moral development of children enabling them the opportunities to identify with issues in which they may find themselves. All children receive a Story Bible on entry into the Foundation Stage which enables children to become familiar with many stories as they progress through the school. Links are made between subjects, for example during maths week children found number connections in the Bible which also reinforced their research skills. Great care is taken to ensure that the school is inclusive, providing for all children to learn respect for others and their beliefs and culture. Children know the difference between right and wrong and recognise the Bible as a code for life. The school council are valued as confident decision makers, suggesting ideas which are listened to and acted on, for example, holding a Pet's

Service. Visitors from other cultures are welcomed, such as the Kenyan Choir which promotes children's learning of other cultures. An introduction to other world faiths is taught so broadening understanding and respect for each other. The close proximity of the parish church add to the distinctive Christian character of the school.

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

Collective worship makes a good impact on the school community.

Worship is a distinctive part of the day and important to the life of the school. The content involves all children well through questioning, interaction and discussion and gains their interest and enthusiasm. They enjoyed the visual presentation of God through the likeness of some of His qualities to a cricketer. All teaching staff lead worship regularly which provides a different focus which the children appreciate. Prayers written for an occasion display an understanding of the purpose of prayer. Times of quiet reflection are provided for children's own thoughts within the theme. Worship is well prepared using themes which develop spiritual and moral thinking. However, the lack of a more detailed planned programme and record hinders continuity and greater exploration throughout the week. Good work and personal achievements are shared and celebrated each week reinforcing love and respect for each other. However, the Christian aspect of worship has been compromised on these occasions, to accommodate children who are otherwise withdrawn. There are few opportunities for children to appreciate the Anglican aspects of Christian faith and practice in school. There are suitable and safe arrangements made for the supervision of 5 children who are regularly withdrawn from worship. Parents are always welcome to attend and to share in a Christian family worship.

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

The leadership and management of the school as a church school is satisfactory.

The headteacher's Christian role model along with her good leadership, always striving to improve the education for all the children, is greatly valued. She has lead the school through a difficult time of staff illness and promoted change to develop the school as a Church school. The foundation governors should take greater responsibility for the management of the developing of the Christian foundation through monitoring provision for spiritual growth. The links with the parish church are good through the regular support of the Vicar who takes part in special school services held in church and his pastoral role for both adults and children. The church community is well informed of the school's Christian development, along with members of the parish community offering help within the school and visits to church from time to time. Children's work is displayed in church for Sunday family service. These enable the children to grow in understanding of the close links with the church. Good links are maintained with the Diocese who support the school well. Year 4 children participate in a Cathedral Day which provides opportunity for them to recognise that East Brent Church is part of a much larger diocesan scene.

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