

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### St. Bartholomew's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Front Street  
Longbenton  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE12 8AE

**Diocese: Newcastle**

LA: North Tyneside

Dates of inspection: 19th May 2006

Date of last inspection: 12<sup>th</sup> – 13th June 2000

School's Unique reference number: 108615

Headteacher: Mrs G. Surtees

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Jean Mulley

#### School context

This school is situated on the outskirts of the city of Newcastle. There are 213 pupils on roll divided into 7 classes plus 26 in the nursery. The school is very popular and currently has appeals for admission pending. It is well supported by the parish and by the community in general. The head has been in post for 18 months.

#### Summary Judgement

This is a good school with one or two outstanding features. The school recognises its distinctiveness as an aided Church of England school. The outstanding Christian ethos pervades all areas of school life. Children see their school as one big happy family in which respect and care for all is paramount.

#### Established strengths

The Christian ethos is outstanding and is a major strength of the school. The caring, supportive attitude of staff creates a good role model for pupils. Everyone feels valued and respected. Parents appreciate the caring atmosphere of the school and the way in which their children are cared for and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

#### Focus for development

The school needs to develop the R.E. scheme as outlined in the School Improvement Plan ensuring that the new Diocesan syllabus is fully integrated. Assessment for R.E. needs to be developed. A more rigorous approach to the planning and evaluation of collective worship should be adopted in order to achieve consistency across the school and also to match the good delivery of worship.

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

There is a strong emphasis on Christian values which are deemed to be outstanding. Relationships within the school are very good. Children feel secure and happy. The school is welcoming and friendly. Parents are very supportive – many choose to send their children to this school because of its reputation as a caring Christian establishment. Parents support this by holding a Christian club, "the Son Seekers", in school. Opportunities for spiritual, cultural, social and moral development are found across all areas of school life. Throughout the school there is a variety of Christian signs and symbols - an outstanding example of good practice in a church school. In addition excellent R.E. displays show that pupils' work is valued and celebrated.

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

Collective Worship is stated to be central to the daily life of the school. Delivery of worship is good. A time for reflection and thought is built into each act of worship. Each class has a small table with a cross and a candle to make a focal point for worship. However the school hall could benefit from bolder, brighter displays and a bigger worship table to enhance the atmosphere for worship. The children are offered a wide variety of worship. The parish priest conducts worship in school on special occasions with other visitors invited from time to time. The local church is used regularly both as a resource and as a place of worship. Prayers are said at times throughout the day. The school must develop a more rigorous approach to planning and evaluating worship to ensure consistency of approach and to match the high standards of delivery.

#### How effective is the religious education?

Delivery of R.E. of a very high standard was observed. Children's work demonstrates a wide variety of tasks. There are some excellent R.E. displays throughout the school

showing that children's work is valued and celebrated. School must implement the new Diocesan R.E. syllabus as outlined in the SIP and also develop a process of assessment for R.E.

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

The leadership and management of this school are very good. The headteacher has a clear Christian vision for the school and is supported in this by the staff and governors. There is a very supportive ethos in the school with teamwork and shared values at the centre. Governors give strong support and challenge for the school. They know their school well. Foundation governors are aware of the significant role they have in bringing the Christian aspect into areas of governance. The response of the headteacher and governors is such that there is a mutual benefit for pupils, parents of the school and the local community.

SIAS report 19th May 2006 St. Bartholomew's C.E. Primary School Front Street Longbenton Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 8AE