

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Briavel's Parochial Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

High Street

St Briavels

Lydney

Gloucestershire

Diocese: Gloucester

LA: Gloucestershire

Dates of inspection: 7th June 2006

Date of last inspection: 28th June 2000

School's Unique reference number: 115697

Headteacher: NS118 Mr Colin French

Inspector's name and number: NS118 Mr Colin French

School context

St Briavel's Primary school serves an attractive, small community set in delightful surroundings on the edge of the Forest of Dean. In addition, the school attracts pupils from beyond the boundaries of this rural village. The buildings have recently been carefully remodelled to provide some very good facilities.

Summary Judgement

St Briavel's Parochial School is a good church school. It provides a good Christian environment in which the pupils feel secure and gain an excellent insight to the world beyond their immediate surroundings. The school's SEF does not give a very full picture of its Christian distinctiveness but this became obvious during the inspection process. The school has accurately assessed its strengths and is addressing those issues that require attention and further development.

Established strengths

- The school has a strong Christian ethos.
- The Head Teacher provides very good committed leadership and is well supported by the staff, the Incumbent and an active governing body.
- The Comenius project and the ongoing link with Kenya make a notable contribution to the spiritual, moral and social development of the pupils and to their understanding of the world.
- A commitment to serve and work with the local community is an important feature of the school.

Focus for development

The school should:

- Provide support and guidance for class teachers as they assume responsibility from the subject co-ordinator for R E teaching with their classes.
- Provide regular opportunities for pupils to record their evaluations of collective worship.

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

Through its distinctive Christian character the school meets the needs of all learners very well. The very strong Christian ethos is evident from the displays immediately upon entering the school entrance lobby. Further displays and artefacts within the school reinforce this. Discussions with staff, pupils, and governors all confirm that Christian values have a strong influence on the policies and practices of the school. Fairness, justice and the importance of community are promoted through the Kenya partnership and the knowledge gained through the Comenius Project. Relationships within the school are good and there is a strong sense of belonging. The pupils indicated that they felt safe and cared for within the school. They are well behaved and courteous to all. They illustrated their awareness of the need to show care and concern for others by talking eagerly about the school's buddy system and the support that they give to Mwoki Primary School in Kenya. Clearly, the seeds of Christian values are being sown and are beginning to flourish. The cross and candle given by the school to leavers are intended as a permanent reminder of the foundations laid at St Briavels. The school is at the centre of this village community. It draws strength from the support of the parish church and the continuing links with the Congregational Chapel.

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

The impact of collective worship upon the school community is good. The school places great importance upon collective worship in its daily life and acknowledges the value of the weekly contribution made by the Incumbent. The act of worship observed during the inspection was very well organised, lively and distinctively Christian in content. It took place in a well prepared environment and provided several opportunities for the pupils' active participation. There was ample time for prayer, praise and reflection. In discussion with the inspector, after this act of worship, the co-ordinator was able to demonstrate that all the elements necessary to provide successful and meaningful worship had just been witnessed. She identified the need to provide the opportunity for pupils to evaluate and comment upon acts of worship. A means to do this would shortly be introduced. When questioned, the pupils expressed positive opinions about acts of worship.

How effective is the religious education?

Religious education is good. One very able member of staff currently teaches RE across the school. She has excellent subject knowledge and has planned the delivery and assessment of this area of the curriculum very effectively. However, the school has recognised the benefit, for both pupils and teachers, to be gained by involving more members of staff in the delivery of the RE curriculum and plans are in hand to address this issue in the next academic year. This will coincide with the introduction of the new Gloucestershire RE Agreed Syllabus. Planning for the implementation of the new curriculum and for the support for staff is now under way. The two RE lessons observed were good. They were stimulating and the pupils responded well. The learners showed a level of understanding and knowledge appropriate to their age. They spoke confidently about what they had learned and about previous RE topics. For the majority of pupils the level of learning and attainment were at least in line with the expectations of the agreed syllabus and in some cases exceeded expectations.

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

The leadership and management of this church school are good. The Head Teacher provides energy, drive and vision and has guided it through a period of upheaval. Her commitment is a valuable asset for the school and harnessed with the enthusiasm of the incumbent and the foundation governors has ensured that the Christian distinctiveness of the school has flourished. The relationship between the church and the school has been rebuilt in recent years and now there is evident mutual support. The RE and Worship co-ordinator has provided a knowledgeable and insightful contribution to her areas of responsibility. Parents have expressed confidence in the school and its Christian foundation.

SIAS report June 2006 St Briavel's Parochial C.E. (Aided) Primary School High Street St Briavels Lydney Gloucestershire