

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Barrowby Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Church Street,
Barrowby
Lincolnshire
NG32 1BX

Dioceses: Lincoln

Local Authority: Lincolnshire

Date of inspection: 14th and 15th February 2007

Date of last inspection: 7th February 2003

URN: 120513

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Sylvia West

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number: Roger Moore 353

Context

This is an average sized over subscribed primary school on the edge of Grantham. Most pupils are white and of British heritage; there are very few from minority ethnic groups.

Socio economic circumstances are mixed. The proportion eligible for free school meals is well below average.

The school has a strong connection with the adjacent church, links with 3 secondary schools and a nearby university. The school has IIP status.

Summary Judgement

Barrowby Church of England Primary School is an outstanding church school.

Leadership and management and provision for personal development are outstanding.

Established strengths

- The quality of learning and teaching, enabling the school to successfully meet the needs of all pupils.
- The importance the school places on the quality of its collective worship.
- Christian values are embedded in the ethos of the school.
- The very close links with the church and the use of key church members in collective worship and Religious Education which enhance the quality of those experiences

Focus for development

- Embed the developments to the religious education curriculum as set out in the School Development Plan
- Further develop the school grounds to include areas for quiet reflection and prayer as set out in the school's development plan
- Build on the outcomes of the spiritual awareness away day to consider how spiritual development can be further enhanced

The school through its distinctive Christian character is outstanding at meeting the needs of all its learners.

Through consistent high quality teaching and learning experiences, learners of all types flourish and fulfil their potential whatever their race, gender, age and ability. Parents view the school as a very caring place which has very strong links with the

church and community. Relationships within the school community are exemplary, distinguished by care and concern for others in an environment where the Christian ethos underpins the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. High importance and value is placed on the range of acts of collective worship provided throughout the week. Children's achievements throughout the school are celebrated and encourage all children to strive to meet their full potential. Three key members of the church contribute to the effectiveness of the schools' collective worship and religious education programme. In the religious education lessons observed, the quality of teaching ranged from good to outstanding. Questioning and reflection were key elements in the way the teachers involved and developed the children's thoughts. Children not only learn about other religions, they also learn from them.

The provision and impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.

Daily acts of worship are given a high place of priority in the life of the school. The children interviewed remembered fondly many of the acts of worship they had experienced. Older children act effectively as monitors and are fully involved in making the acts of worship successful. The use of technology such as PowerPoint presentations and accompanying music are very effective. There is a clear impact on the children. They enjoy the acts of worship and recognise and value the opportunity not only to celebrate their work and contribution but also to reflect and contemplate in quiet moments of prayer. The themes follow closely the Christian calendar. The church is used for services throughout the year and is ideally placed as an excellent resource for the school. The school makes very good use of the building and its very strong links with the church members. Singing and the use of music and musicians is a strength.

Leadership and management of the school as a church school are outstanding.

There is a clearly identified vision for the school in which the church, collective worship, religious education and the establishment of a Christian ethos are paramount. All staff provide excellent role models for the children. The distinctive vision of the school is strengthened by the very close links with the church. Three people from the ministry team work in the school on a regular basis. Distributive leadership across effective teams of staff provides a high quality structure to the way the school is run. All staff are involved in putting the distinctive Christian vision into practice. Displays of children's work are of high quality and reflect the care and attention given to meeting the needs of all pupils. The religious education and collective worship co-ordinator has a clearly determined plan for ensuring the school continues to build on its already effective provision. Changes to religious education, through the introduction of the new Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus are included in the School Development Plan. There are also good links and support provided by the Diocese. The school council plays an important part in the school's life and has an effective voice. Governors are interested and involved in the development of the school.

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