

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Beckley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Church Street

Beckley

Oxford

OX3 9UT

Diocese: Oxford

Local authority: Oxfordshire

Dates of inspection: 30 October 2006

Date of last inspection: February 2000

School's unique reference number: 123175

Headteacher: Mrs Grace Zawadzki

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Mari Powell 143

School context

Beckley Church of England School is a smaller than average rural school serving a number of surrounding villages. Most pupils are of white British origin and none speak English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is broadly average. There is a good proportion of able pupils. The headteacher has been in post for fourteen years but the governing body has recently undergone considerable changes.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Beckley School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

Christian values are at the heart of the very dynamic ethos which prevails at Beckley School. The school's mission statement vividly encapsulates the attitudes and values that so effectively foster the spiritual and moral development of the pupils as well as their determination to succeed in their academic work.

Established strengths

- The school's Christian vision through which pupils develop a sense of self worth, value and respect others and are sensitive to the needs of others.
- The central role of worship and the link with the church.
- The outstanding leadership of the headteacher who communicates a very distinctive vision of an effective church school.

Focus for development

- Ensure that governors new to the school develop the evaluative skills necessary to stimulate and challenge the school to ensure its continuing success.
- Continue to monitor the impact of fresh approaches to the teaching of religious education in order to further enhance its very valuable contribution to the overall personal development of pupils.

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

The school's Christian ethos is reflected powerfully in the harmonious, respectful relationships between all its members. All children are valued, loved and encouraged to fulfil their potential and consequently make very good progress to reach very high standards in their work. The headteacher and staff are unstinting in their contribution to the all round development of the children and provide very effective role models for their pupils. The quality of care provided encourages the children to behave very well and to respect each other. They enthusiastically embrace charitable causes and show great concern for children living in difficult circumstances. The Foundation governors are highly valued for the support they give the school. They play a full part in monitoring and evaluating its work. As a result, they are increasingly developing their role in stimulating discussion that challenges the school

and contributes to its effectiveness as a church school. Visual evidence of the school's Christian foundation is prominent. Pupils proudly pointed out their beautiful millennium window, itself a visual symbol of their own passionate concern for their environment.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The commitment to pupils' spiritual and moral development is consistently outstanding. Acts of collective worship are seen as a pivotal ingredient of this provision, reinforced and enhanced through the programme of Values Education and learning in religious education. The planning for worship ensures a very broad spectrum of topics and themes. It takes good account of festivals in the church calendar, which are celebrated in school and in the church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A very lively harvest celebration provided an excellent opportunity for raising awareness of similar festivals in other world faiths. It was also a much-valued opportunity for parents and others in the community to participate. A survey of pupils' attitudes to worship provides convincing evidence of how they value these shared opportunities to celebrate, to reflect and "to say thank you for all the things God does for us". Pupils' attitudes are excellent overall. The willingness to pray to listen and respond to prayer reflects the pupils' appreciation of what prayer offers them, as when, for example, sad events have affected the school. Pupils value opportunities to organise and lead worship and do so in a very responsible and often imaginative way.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school are outstanding.

The headteacher very effectively promotes a vision for the development of the school as a place where Christian values are promoted together with a strong commitment to inclusion. This vision is shared by the staff and by parents who write in appreciation of the impact of the school's ethos upon their children. The governors support the school very well to uphold values that are consistent with the Christian foundation of the school. The traditions of prayer and reflection are very well established and promote the spiritual development of pupils very effectively. The place of religious education in the curriculum is highly valued and has undergone a thorough review. Pupils now acquire a very good knowledge of the Bible as well as a recognition of the importance of holy books and places associated with other world faiths. The links with the local church and with the community at large are very dynamic. All school celebrations are massively supported. They are much appreciated by the local community who are fulsome in their praise for the conduct of the children. The school's mission is very appropriately expressed in a framed adaptation of Corinthians 13, which is on display.