

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Beedon Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Stanmore Road,
Beedon,
Newbury,
Berks.
RG20 8SL

Diocese: Oxford

LA: West Berkshire

Dates of inspection; 11th September, 2006

Date of last inspection: 8th-10th November, 1999

School's Unique reference number: 8693007

Name of Headteacher: Mrs. Mary Sitch

Inspector's name and NS inspector's number: Rev'd Jan Fielden (108)

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Beedon as a Church of England school are good

Beedon is a good Church School, with many outstanding features. A strong Christian ethos is at the centre of the life and work of the school, where pupils experience the meaning of the Christian faith.

Established strengths

- The outstanding quality of leadership by the Head and the support of the Governors.
- The involvement of the whole community in the life of the school.
- The welcoming and open atmosphere throughout the school.
- The value the pupils themselves place on their school.

Focus for development

- To increase pupils' opportunities for spiritual growth through quiet times of reflection during Collective Worship
- To record and review coverage of the Christian faith included in Collective Worship.
- To involve Foundation Governors in monitoring Collective Worship.

The school, through its Christian character, is outstanding in the way it meets the needs of the pupils.

This school values all pupils as individuals, their gifts and talents are appreciated and celebrated by sharing them with their fellow pupils, making them feel valued and special. Christian values permeate school life, where the small number of pupils, learn in a 'family' atmosphere, while caring for each other's needs. The pupils feel that their opinions are valued and their suggestions are often acted upon through their involvement in the school council. Pupils of all abilities are well catered for, including those with Special Educational Needs, and clear targets are set for them. All adults in school take responsibility for pupils' learning and individual targets are monitored by all staff and individual governors, who are each responsible for a group of pupils. Because of this, each pupil can see that their academic progress is valued. The relationships between pupils and adults are very good, and the children express a willingness to approach an adult if they have any concerns. Staff, parents, pupils and other members of the village community have worked very hard to enhance the school environment to encourage the pupils' spiritual development, through the development of a quiet garden and a further garden area dedicated to the memory of a friend of the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Collective Worship has a high priority in the life of the school and is valued by pupils and adults, who attend daily. There is a clear policy for Collective Worship, but the current broad themes do not necessarily provide the pupils with a rich enough diet of Bible stories. Pupils relate that there is little time for reflection during collective worship. The links between church and school are made clear to the pupils by the frequent visits of the local clergy, and the use of the local church to celebrate major festivals. Worship makes a significant contribution to the moral and spiritual development of the pupils.

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

The Head's vision and Christian commitment contributes significantly to the success of this church school. The school evaluates effectively its strengths and the areas in need of development. All staff are committed to supporting the Christian ethos and make a significant contribution to the development of the learners. The number of Learning Support Assistants and Special Educational Needs Assistants is high, giving pupils' ample opportunity to interact with adults on an individual or small group basis. The pupils relate well to these supportive, caring adults. In addition, Governors and parents help in school on a regular basis, giving them the opportunity to be involved in the daily life of the school. The wider village community helps with projects like the memorial garden and is invited to attend plays and special events in school. The pupils value this close link with the community and make positive comments concerning the importance of these links. Parents speak positively of their involvement with the school and their children's learning. A 'Listening Ear' Governor, who changes monthly, is on hand daily to talk to parents who have any concerns or suggestions. Parents find this a non-threatening way of expressing any concerns they may have.

SIAS report September 2006 Beedon Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School Stanmore Road, Beedon, Newbury, Berks. RG20 8SL