

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Belgrave St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Thurcaston Road,

Leicester.

LE4 5PG

**Diocese: Leicester**

LA: Leicester

Dates of Inspection: 30<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006

Date of Last Inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2001

School's Unique Ref Number: 120186

Name of headteacher: Mrs Mary Ann Davies

Inspectors name and (N/S No): Mrs Wendy Martin (No: 168)

#### **Context of the school**

Belgrave St. Peter's School serves a socially and economically disadvantaged area of Leicester. A few pupils are in the early stages of learning English as an additional language. The school has undergone a period of turbulence, with two acting heads, and a high turnover of staff, before the present headteacher was appointed in January 2005. The deputy head was appointed the following term, and the new school management team are working extremely hard together. The transfer from Controlled to Aided status occurred while the school had an acting head, so has not yet had the opportunity to realise its full potential. However, the school is aware of this, and staff and governors are keen to develop the opportunity presented by this change of status.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of this school as a Church of England school is satisfactory.**

The school provides a Christian ethos in which all pupils feel valued and special. There are positive links with St. Peter's church, and the local community. There are good relationships across the school based on Christian principles.

#### **Established strengths**

- Pupils feel safe, secure and confident within the school.
- The headteacher has a clear vision for the school, and high expectations of staff and learners.
- The school is calm and orderly, and pupils are well behaved.
- The head and management team receive strong support from the governing body.

#### **Focus for development**

- To strengthen the Anglican content of collective worship, in line with the Trust Deed.
- To provide training for all staff in leading Collective worship, to ensure consistency.
- To agree strategies to ensure that teaching and learning in Religious education is of a consistently high standard.
- To incorporate strategies for monitoring and evaluation of Collective worship and Religious education, by staff and Governors.

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

The School Aims, displayed throughout the school, and in all documentation, underline the Christian ethos, and expectations for all learners. Personal development policies are based on the belief that each person is an individual, valued by God. Although changes of staff have delayed the production of a policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development, the head is keen to develop this. Pupils are enthusiastic about the links between school and the local church. They enjoy the School Prayer, introduced by the current head, and are pleased that it is displayed in every classroom. Christian values are modelled by school adults, and pupils feel supported and respected as individuals. Children are proud of their fund raising for various charities. The school offers a good range of extra curricular activities. The School Council is involved in decision making, and members feel that they have a real voice in the school. A symbol of Christianity, clearly visible in the entrance hall, would serve to underline to parents and visitors the fact that St. Peter's is a church school.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory.**

Worship is inclusive for all pupils and adults. Children listen attentively, and behaviour is good. They sing with obvious pleasure, and respond appropriately when invited to reflect. A candle is lit for periods of reflection. In a Keystage 1 assembly, a Bible was displayed alongside the candle, and a Bible story was used to underline the fact that all children are valued by God. Pupils were invited by the worship leader to read the story again afterwards from their own Bibles, recently presented by St. Peter's Church. The Lord's Prayer was obviously familiar to pupils, and the School Prayer was used in all Acts of Worship. However, two other acts of worship on the theme of "Keeping Safe" did not contain any reference to Christianity other than the School Prayer, so opportunities to include Anglican beliefs and practices were missed. The hall is open plan, so use of the corridor and staffroom during worship can be a distraction. St. Peter's Church works closely with the school, supporting staff and regularly leading Acts of Worship, emphasising the Anglican foundation. The Parish Church is used for the main Christian festivals, and for the Leavers Service at the end of each year. Parents attend Achievement Assemblies, and are invited to attend Church celebrations, though this is limited by problems with space. A range of visitors contribute to Worship, and the headteacher is keen to extend this. Training in leading collective worship for all staff involved, followed by a planned programme of monitoring and evaluation by staff and governors would ensure consistency, and further enhance provision for pupils.

**The effectiveness of religious education is satisfactory.**

Lessons are carefully planned, following the Diocesan syllabus and QCA schemes of work. The subject is given the correct amount of time. An effective display of Christian prayers, written by Year 6 pupils, and displays on Remembrance Day and Harvest enhanced other areas of the school. Children learn about other world religions, and similarities and differences between Christianity and other faiths. Leaders from other faiths are invited to talk to pupils, and there are some displays to illustrate other faiths. Effective use is made of ICT, though worksheets are sometimes used unnecessarily. Learning objectives were clearly displayed and referred to during each lesson, but some pupils seemed unsure of what they were learning, and why. Due to staff changes, the headteacher has taken on the role of co-ordinator this term, and has not yet been able to set up a system of formal monitoring and evaluation. However, she is keen to do this in the future, and strategies will be included in the new policy, which is due for review. Also to be included in this review, is planned INSET for staff on teaching and learning, and resourcing of religious education. This will ensure consistency throughout the school.

**The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is satisfactory.**

The headteacher has a clear vision for the future of St. Peter's school, and a supportive staff team share her aims and values. They have worked extremely hard to improve the self esteem of pupils, and to establish a very clear behaviour policy, so that behaviour throughout the school is now good, and pupils feel valued and supported. The impact of the head and her management team on the school was acknowledged in the recent Ofsted report. The School Council are regularly consulted, and feel that their views are respected and acted upon. Parents are becoming more involved in the life of the school, and are able to express their views through regular questionnaires. The atmosphere in the building is calm and supportive. The school has recently become involved in the SEAL project, which the headteacher feels will be invaluable in meeting the emotional needs of pupils. A clear policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development, will further enhance provision for all pupils, and will enable staff to identify areas where opportunities for spiritual development can be strengthened. During the short time available to them, the staff have worked on many areas of the National Society Self – Evaluation Toolkit. This provides evidence of a commitment to continue to improve as an Aided School, though governors need to take a more pro-active approach towards the monitoring and evaluation of the school as a Church of England school.