

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Blaby Stokes Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Queens Road

Blaby,

Leics

LE8 4EG

Diocese: Leicester

LA: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 4th and 7th June 2007

Date of last inspection: 11th – 15th November 2002

School's Unique Ref. No: 120116

Name of Head teacher; Mr. C. Meadows.

Inspector's name (with N.S. No) Mrs. Wendy Martin (No. 168)

Context

Stokes Primary School is situated in the suburban village of Blaby. There are 311 pupils on roll, with 6.7% from ethnic minority groups. The school is housed in two large buildings, geographically separate, with a wide walkway between, set in 10 acres of attractive grounds, which are carefully managed.

Summary Judgment

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

The school provides a Christian ethos in which all pupils feel valued, secure and confident. There are good relationships across the school, and parents are pleased with the pastoral care provided.

Established strengths

- The Headteacher has a clear vision for the school, and high expectations of all learners.
- The Headteacher, Governors, and Vicar of All Saints Church work well together.
- There are positive links with the wider Christian community.
- Parents have confidence in the school, and feel that their views are respected.

Focus for development

- Ensure that the School Aims and Mission Statement reflect the clearly evident Christian ethos of the school.
- Strengthen the use of display, to convey to all that this is a Church school.
- Develop a policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development, which reflects the good practice observed in the school.
- Work with Foundation Governors in monitoring and evaluating the school as an Anglican school.

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

Christian values are modelled by school adults, and pupils feel supported and respected as individuals. Pupils are aware that this is a Church school, and are enthusiastic about the links

between school and All Saints Church. The Vicar and other personnel visit regularly, and the school choir and orchestra perform occasionally in services. Groups of children visit the church to learn about the history of the building. Pupils in Years 3 and 4 visit an annual Bible Exhibition in Glen- Croft Church, where they are presented with Bibles. Displays around the school emphasise care for others, but wider use of Christian displays would serve to enhance the Christian ethos. Pupils are proud of their school, and enjoy the wide range of extra curricular activities provided. Older pupils are keen to help younger ones, e.g. as “nannies” at lunchtime, and through the “Super Leaders Initiative.” Behaviour is very good. The school has attained the Eco – Schools Award, Healthy Schools Status, New Active Mark and Education Extra Awards. School Councillors are enthusiastic about their role, and feel that they have a voice in the school. A wide range of charities are supported, and pupils feel confident in suggesting ways to help others. The school hosts an annual senior citizens party, in which all pupils are involved.

The impact of collective worship on the school is good.

Collective worship is clearly inclusive for all pupils and adults. Singing and prayer play an important part in worship, and pupils are familiar with The Lord’s Prayer. A candle and cross provide a focus for worship. Children enter and leave quietly, to appropriate music, often provided by pupils playing instruments. Collective worship is led by the Headteacher and other staff, following a carefully planned programme of themes which reflect the Christian calendar. One act of worship was based on Christian symbolism, giving pupils the opportunity to reflect and to contribute ideas. The Vicar of All Saints Church is a popular visitor, leading acts of worship which emphasise the Anglican foundation. Bible stories are used, and children invited to read the stories again later in their own Bibles. A range of visitors from other local churches lead worship on occasions, and pupils benefit from this liaison. Parents are invited to services such as Harvest Festival and Christmas, though the hall is very small, which limits attendance at other times. Achievement Assemblies are held twice a term, where the successes of pupils are celebrated.

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

The Headteacher, with full support from Governors and staff, provides strong leadership. He has a clear vision for the future of Blaby Stokes Primary School, and a management team which shares the aims of the governing body. Parents are regularly consulted, and are able to express their views through questionnaires. They value the Christian ethos of the school, and feel confident that staff are approachable, and will deal effectively with any problems which arise.

The newly appointed co-ordinator for religious education is enthusiastic, and keen to improve resources for the teaching of Christianity and other major world religions. Policies for religious education and collective worship are contained in one document. A separate policy for collective worship is currently being prepared, and will serve to underline the importance of worship as an integral part of life of the school. Similarly, the production of a policy for spiritual, moral, social and cultural education, which reflects the good practice observed in the school, will enable staff to identify areas where opportunities for spiritual development can be strengthened. The school is now in a good position to involve Governors and staff in working together on the self-evaluation toolkit, in order to be proactive in monitoring the school as an Anglican school. There is a good Christian ethos in the school, though this is not reflected fully in the school’s aims and mission statement.