

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Brampford Speke Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Brampford Speke
Exeter
Devon
EX5 5HE

Diocese: Exeter

Local authority: Devon
Dates of inspection: 11th January 2008
Date of last inspection: 24th/28th March 2003
School's unique reference number: 113347
Headteacher: Mr Stephen Powley
Inspector's name and number: Roger Guest 206

School context

Brampford Speke is a village primary school with 52 pupils, generally from a White British background. The three classes each contain more than one year group. The number of pupils with learning difficulties is around average.

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

Brampford Speke's Christian family atmosphere enables it to provide an inclusive education in a caring environment. As a result pupils have positive attitudes and develop good self-esteem. The school enjoys support from the whole village community

Established strengths

- High quality links between the school, local Churches and the local village
- Collaborative working environment resulting in very good relationships.
- Secure Christian ethos ensuring all pupils are cared for and valued highly.

Focus for development

- Evaluate all aspects of the school's effectiveness as a Church school.
- Establish strategies to record and evaluate the impact of collective worship on pupils.

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

Christian values are evident in all aspects of school life especially in the positive quality of relationships. Consequently pupils are happy and secure in school. They show care and concern for each other because they are valued as individuals by the school community. The school's inclusive approach to education is valued by parents and pupils. Pupils develop a good sense of right and wrong because staff provide good role models which promote the school's Christian ethos. Pupils are responding well to Recent Staff appointments. The new staff have quickly established their role in the maintenance of the school's distinctive Christian character. As a result Pupils have maintained good attitudes towards their work and personal development. They are successfully encouraged to be positive through the behaviour strategies adopted by the school. This in turn leads to good behaviour throughout the school. Since the last denominational inspection the school has successfully improved the quality of the learning environment with good displays of pupils' work, which reflect the Christian character of the school. One parent commented "you can tell it's a Church school the minute you walk in".

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Regular acts of worship ensure that worship is central to the life of the school. The school meets regularly for whole school worship in a nearby Baptist chapel. Pupils enjoy this experience because this excellent resource is well used to ensure high quality worship in a spiritually inspiring environment. Together with the parish church, in which major Christian festivals are celebrated, these venues enable the school to have a good impact on pupils' spiritual development. Parents and pupils talk of their appreciation of the 'Service with a Smile' which cements the close links with the church community. Worship follows planned themes which, together with a variety of worship leaders, broaden the pupils' experience of worship. Pupils are proud that their own prayers are used during worship times and prayers after lunch. The school does not hold a Eucharist. Worship in the church has been informally and very effectively evaluated. This good practice needs to be extended to include all acts of worship.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is good

Pupils, parents, governors and staff greatly value and engage with the strong Christian family atmosphere, which the school actively and successfully promotes. Consequently, learners are encouraged to share in the life of the whole community by writing reports on school life for the village magazine. The Villagers reciprocate by supporting school events. Recently the governing body has actively sought to appoint staff committed to supporting the school's strong Christian ethos. Staff receive good support from the head teacher and share his vision for school development. New teachers have quickly become a full part of this collaborative working atmosphere and pupils are responding well to them. The Christian character of the school is evident in documentation, signs and good display work which reflects the school's Christian ethos. Parents have been formally consulted regarding the work of the school and their opinions considered and acted upon. In this small school, informal procedures have enabled the headteacher to be fully aware of the strengths and developmental needs of the school, which he has shared with the governing body. There are not however systems in place to effectively monitor and challenge the overall development of the school as a Church school. The governors, including recently appointed members, are aware of this. They share a determination to ensure the continuing development of the school's Christian work.

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