

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Bransgore Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Ringwood Road
Bransgore
Christchurch
BH23 8JH

Diocese: Winchester

Local Authority: Hampshire

Dates of inspection: 27th February 2008

Date of last inspection: September 2003

School's Unique Reference Number: 116274

Headteacher: Mr Peter Pretlove

Incumbent: Rev. Peter Rickman

Inspector's name and NS number: Mr Chris Williamson 290

School context

Bransgore Church of England Primary School has 321 children on roll. Children come from a variety of backgrounds. The rural catchment area includes a privately owned Gypsy site. There are 16% of the children on the Special Needs Register, 10% of the children are from ethnic minority groups and 3% are entitled to Free School Meals. The school enjoys a productive partnership with St Mary's Church which is adjacent to the school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bransgore Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

The distinctiveness of the school as a church school pervades all aspects of its life. The Christian ethos and values of care and concern for every individual are lived out on a daily basis. The outstanding leadership, together with the strong links with the church community, means that the school is well placed to continue to improve.

Established strengths

- The quality of relationships, based on Christian values, which have a significant impact on children's personal and academic development
- The active participation of children in collective worship
- The outstanding leadership and management of the school together with the commitment of all staff
- The capacity and determination to improve

Focus for development

- To identify and develop further opportunities within the school environment to enrich the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children
- To develop facilities, planned in partnership with St Mary's Church, to support the welfare of the children

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners and has many outstanding features

Children feel valued and special. Children enjoy school and feel that their opinions are listened to. A significant strength of the school is the support for children's care and well being. This results in excellent attitudes, behaviour and good academic progress. This support also has an extremely positive impact on children's social and moral development. Children engage with issues relating to emotional health and well being during circle time and during Golden Assemblies, which also serve as a whole school council. The school has built a reputation for being inclusive, particularly for children from the Gypsy community. Christian values pervade the school and have a positive impact both on children's personal

development and progress in learning. Children are polite, considerate and confident. Excellent relationships, characterised by Christian care and concern for others, exist within the school. There is a close partnership with the church and this has an extremely positive impact on children's spiritual development. For example there is a highly successful church school youth club called Godzone, where Christian values are promoted. This club meets weekly after school and is attended by 100 children. The whole school environment is inspirational and makes an outstanding contribution to children's spiritual development. There is an excellent variety of displays.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship is very important in the life of the school. Worship is included in the school development plan and the school enjoys particularly strong links with neighbouring St Mary's Church. As a result, a well planned programme ensures that acts of worship are meaningful because worship relates to the children's experiences as well as to church festivals and the church year. Children have positive attitudes towards collective worship and enjoy active participation. The quality of both worship and singing has improved this year as a result of the work of the leadership team and the suggestions made by the children. Children demonstrate a mutual respect for each other and for the beliefs and cultures of others. The school works hard to make all children feel included in worship whether they have a different faith background or none. The spiritual dimension of collective worship, in which many opportunities exist for stillness and reflection, has a significant positive impact on the children. The use of 'talk partners' extends into collective worship and staff model this behaviour with the children. Children sometimes share music or dance in collective worship and this enhances worship celebrations and inspires other children. The school has extended the range of sensory items to enhance worship and provide a visual stimulation for awe and wonder. For example multi media facilities mean that children now share in the impact of their collection for the Christmas 'shoe box' appeal. In one observation of an act of worship a DVD was used with particular effect to enhance children's spiritual growth. Children value the special acts of worship which are celebrated in the local parish church. They are also particularly enthusiastic about the regular visits by the vicar to lead collective worship. Both of these links with the parish church help to strengthen children's understanding of Anglican faith and practice. Worship in church, led by the children, is supported enthusiastically by the parents; these occasions are followed by an Open Morning in school to share the children's work.

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

The distinctive Christian vision for the school, which has been evaluated and re-identified, is understood clearly by all stakeholders. The outstanding leadership of the headteacher, who is supported strongly by the governors, has ensured that the school's distinctive Christian vision has been promoted effectively. Staff are completely comfortable and confident in their part in sharing and developing the school's ongoing vision. The school has a clear and strategic view about church school improvement based on secure evidence and analysis drawn from school self evaluation. Systems of monitoring and evaluation of the school as a church school are well established and highly effective. The school is highly inclusive in its evaluation of itself as a church school; all stakeholders are involved in school improvement. Parents speak positively about the school. The partnership with the local church community is outstanding. The vicar plays a major role in the spiritual life of the school. The whole school community feels valued and supported by the Anglican community of St Mary's Church. The church community also provides practical support, for example with one to one daily reading support for children identified at risk of failure to thrive. Strong links exist with a variety of agencies, including the local church, to widen support for children and families. For example the headteacher leads the task group to promote the provision of a children's centre at Bransgore. The church has donated land for this project. The impact of Christian values is demonstrated by the school's support of local and national charities. These include the donation of provisions for the homeless in Bournemouth via the Harvest service, shoe boxes of Christmas gifts for Albania and pennies for Flavio. The totally child led and planned Tsunami Day charity fund raising event raised £700 for a school in Sri Lanka solely from children's own pocket money; this is an excellent example of the power of teamwork at this school and the awareness of being part of a global community. Teamwork and the

determination to continue to improve are both strengths of the school.

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