

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Great Bowden Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Gunnsbrook Close
off Main Street
Great Bowden
Market Harborough
Leics.
LE16 7HZ

Diocese: Leicester

LA: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 6th and 9th of November 2006

Date of last inspection: 2001

School's Unique reference No: 120145

Name of Head teacher: Mrs Stefanie Edwards

Inspector's name with N.S. No: Mrs Mary Lawson (167)

School context

Great Bowden Church of England School is a small primary school, on the outskirts of Market Harborough. The school serves the village of Great Bowden and about half of the children travel from further afield. There are 74 children on roll a small number of which are from traveller families. A new Head Teacher was appointed for September 2006. The school has excellent links with the Anglican Church, Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

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

The school is an effective Church of England School, where the strong Christian ethos ensures all are valued. The children are encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential and relationships across the school are good. There are very strong links with the church, even though there is no incumbent at present. All legal requirements are met.

Established strengths

- Pupils are secure, happy and confident in school
- The provision for the children's spiritual development is good
- Strong links with the Parish Church with the children attending Church once a month.
- Other ministers are invited to take Collective Worship

Focus for development

- To encourage all staff to attend Collective Worship
- To further develop children's understanding and experience of Anglican practice
- To develop evaluation of Collective Worship, particularly by the children in all classes

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

Great Bowden, through its distinctive character, clearly provides a strong commitment to the development of every child, through the Every Child Matters agenda. This is clearly reflected in the school's documentation. The school is welcoming, warm and friendly and the new Head Teacher has clear plans to further develop the main entrance of the school. The children are very happy at school, as evidenced through surveys of parents and discussion with the School Council. Behaviour is good and there is a calm, working atmosphere that

permeates throughout the school. Displays in the School Hall enhance Collective Worship. The Golden Box and the Gold Book celebrate the achievements of individuals and the children speak of their chance to nominate other children as a positive step forward. Daily prayers are said and the Lord's Prayer has been introduced this term. Prayer cards, issued during Collective Worship help the children to learn the prayer. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good and the active school Council reflected this in the comment 'The new Head Teacher is allowing them time to think and giving them time to talk to God, which is so important.'

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

Daily collective worship forms an integral part of school life for the children, and governing body, however not all the staff attend collective worship on a regular basis. There is no incumbent at present and the new Head Teacher has therefore invited other ministers to lead worship. The school musicians take part regularly in collective worship. The children use the church, once a month, for Worship and major festivals are also celebrated there. Parents and members of the local community are welcome to attend. However, opportunities to further develop the children's understanding and experience of Anglican practice is limited. The Diocesan themes for collective worship are used and are planned in advance, and are used by all staff.

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

Christian values are implicit in the life and work of the school. Although the Head Teacher has only been in post since September, she has had a strong impact on the Christian ethos of the school and supported by the Governing Body. They are working together to further develop the spiritual development of the children, providing time for reflection and prayer, which is appreciated by the children. The Collective Worship co-ordinator has welcomed these developments and is also supportive of new initiatives. The National Society's Self Evaluation Toolkit has been completed and most Foundation Governors were involved in its completion.