

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Low Moor Church Of England Controlled Primary School

Park House Road,
Low Moor.
Bradford
BD12 0NN

Diocese: Bradford

Local authority: Bradford
Dates of inspection: 30th November 2006
Date of last inspection: Not known
School's unique reference number: 107307
Headteacher: Mrs Virginia Hartley
Inspector's name and number: Alan Robertshaw -Pending

School context

This is a larger than average sized school. It serves an area that contains a typical range of family backgrounds. The majority of children are from White British families; a few are of minority ethnic heritage of which some are learning English as an additional language. The proportion of pupils who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities is below average. An important feature of the school is that a significant minority of pupils leave at the end of Year 4 to attend schools in another local authority.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Low Moor as a Church of England school is good with several outstanding features.

A dynamic and Christ-centred ethos within the school brings positive values and attitudes to both teaching and learning. The school has high expectations of its staff and pupils and these are promoted throughout the school. The Head teacher has a clear vision for ensuring that the inclusive nature of the school is at the heart of all that this school does. The behaviour of the children is outstanding

Established strengths

- Care and value for each individual in the school to achieve their potential.
- Inspirational leadership by the Head teacher and leadership team create a positive working environment.
- High quality of personal, spiritual, moral and cultural development for all pupils.
- Mutual support and close links with parents, church and the wider community.
- Individuals are recognised as being special.

Focus for development

- Extend strategies for monitoring and evaluating collective worship to include all stakeholders.
- Ensure consistent and accurate use of the term Collective Worship by all stakeholders, to clarify the focus for school self evaluation.

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

The school makes excellent provision to meet the needs of all its learners. The school's Christian ethos which places great emphasis on valuing each individual, enables all pupils to feel valued and special and to gain the skills and confidence to flourish. There are excellent and exemplary relationships throughout the school characterised by Christian care for others and the desire to live out the aims of the school. Children of all ages speak with pride about their school and their teachers. Children and parents could think of no areas that the school could improve the way in which it meets their needs. Parents stated that relationships within the school, at all levels, are characterised by Christian care and a respect for others. New parents receive a warm welcome and all pupils are keen to attend and work hard. The school

runs a very successful and well attended breakfast club and the school choir regularly performs in the church and the wider community. There are regular and well planned charity events throughout the year. The level of display throughout the school is extremely high and in particular, the large Christian posters and Christian displays enhance the positive atmosphere within the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship occupies a place of central importance to the life of the school. Children are respectful of each other and participate fully in the worship. There is an atmosphere of warmth and care. There are opportunities for prayer, silence and reflection. Worship takes place daily either as a whole school, a key stage or class. Themes for worship are carefully planned by the Worship co-ordinator. Bible readings are a recent addition to the variety of worship that all staff work hard to support. The Year 6 children take responsibility for the readings on a rota basis. This provides opportunities for the children to participate more fully in Collective Worship. Foundation governors speak of strong links with the church and children attend Holy Trinity regularly for Harvest, Advent and Lent. There is a leavers' service each year which the children help to plan. Many children attend church at the 'drop in café.' Foundation governors spoke warmly of the fact that children are often the main lead in attending the church, inviting adults to share the experience with them. Although the co-ordinator currently monitors and evaluates Collective Worship and keeps a record of all the Worship throughout the school, a robust self evaluation system, led by key stakeholders, which monitors, evaluates and reviews this distinctive area is not yet embedded. Terminology for assembly and Collective Worship is not always used accurately particularly in documentation to support school self evaluation.

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

All adults and pupils are united in finding Low Moor a distinctly Christian school offering a very good quality education. The Head Teacher provides exceptional leadership and she is ably supported by a strong leadership team.

Pupils and parents speak appreciatively of the school's Christian ethos and the contribution it makes to the children's all round development as well as the commitment of all the staff to provide a high quality of education. Pupils feel that their voices are not only heard but they are encouraged to question and to reflect and play an active and responsible role in the school. The school enjoys a close and productive relationship with Holy Trinity Church and the wider community and it seeks to further develop this through mutual discussion and evaluation. Foundation governors take their role seriously and want to support the school fully. They talk with pride about the school and its achievements.

There are effective and inclusive recruitment and induction procedures in place to explain and explore the schools Christian character. Foundation governors are fully involved in supporting this process and committed to developing their roles and responsibilities in relation to monitoring and evaluating the school as a Church of England school.