

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Bloxwich Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

High Street
BLOXWICH
WALSALL
WS3 3LP

Diocese of Lichfield

LEA: Staffordshire

Dates of inspection: January 31st 2006

Date of last inspection: October 1999

School's Unique reference number: 104221

Name of Headteacher: Mr. D. Rowe (Acting Head) Mr. M. Blunt (Headteacher)

Inspector: Mr C. James (NS 5)

Context

Bloxwich CE Primary School is a large primary school situated on the North side of the Birmingham conurbation. It serves an area of well below average income and pockets of significant deprivation.

Overall judgement

Bloxwich CE Primary School is a good church school. The importance of worship in the life of the school is outstanding as are the school's Christian values and the way they impact on learners.

Established strengths

- the caring atmosphere generated by the workforce
- the outstanding example set by the Headteacher and the entire leadership team
- the positive learning attitude of all pupils to collective worship

Focus for Development

- Enhance the audiovisual facilities in the hall to improve whole school worship
- Develop overt Christian signs and symbols on the exterior of the buildings
- Exploit the Victorian schoolrooms by adding additional features such as a stained glass window

How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?

The school is good at meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character. All members of this school community are valued and feel special. The school's Christian values impact on learners in an outstanding way enabling them to flourish as individuals to whatever level they are able to achieve. The school's Christian ethos is good and supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners. The Christian values evident in the various relationships within the school are good. The school site is restricted and possibilities for development are limited. Some of the potential has been exploited and there are some good murals and wall displays. There is a spirituality table or corner in each classroom. These are all different and show good imagination through their various contents so that pupils are helped to reflect on God and personally engage with prayer and worship. The Victorian architecture gives the classrooms a 'church-like' appearance. This could be further enhanced when redecoration is possible. The multi-purpose school hall is used for worship which is focused on an altar. It is difficult to further enhance this room due to its construction but improvements to the audio-visual systems would facilitate much better interaction by pupils and would make worship even more special.

What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. The importance of worship is outstanding. This is demonstrated by the obvious and very positive response from the pupils and staff alike. School worship is enjoyed by all participants and is a good example of the Anglican faith in practice. The way that learners and staff of all faiths derive inspiration, spiritual growth and affirmation from worship is good. This is evidenced by the reactions during worship and the enthusiastic retelling of stories from other assemblies by pupils. Opportunities are given for personal reflection and other faiths are included as contrast. There are good links with the Parish Church. The Clergy come into school on a weekly basis to lead worship. The church itself is used to celebrate festivals at appropriate times in the year so that pupils become familiar with this setting as a place for worship and grow appreciative of the Anglican rituals at times such as Easter. Parental involvement is satisfactory on these occasions but could be enhanced and further encouraged.

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

The leadership and management of the school is good. The Acting Headteacher, Headteacher, Worship co-ordinator and foundation governors provide an outstanding example of promoting a distinctive Christian vision for their school. All lead by example. The SMT are good at encouraging others with help from the clergy and Diocese. It is evident that the majority of the staff feels good about, and is involved in, putting this vision into practice. Not all stakeholders (i.e. some learners and their parents) are devout so work to encourage their participation is ongoing. A questionnaire to investigate how and why they want to be involved is to be developed which is commendable.