



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Barrington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

12 Haslingfield Road
Barrington
Cambs
CB2 5RG

Diocese: Ely

Local authority: Cambridgeshire
Dates of inspection: November 20th 2009
Date of last inspection: 2007
School's unique reference number: 110781
Headteacher: Mrs. Francesca Catterson
Inspector's name and number: Ann Williams 573

School context

This small village school serves Barrington and the nearby village of Shepreth. There are also some pupils from a greater distance whose parents have specifically chosen this school. The 93 children, most of whom are from white British families, are taught in 4 classes, each spanning two school years. The number on the special needs register is average. There are very few eligible for free school meals.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Barrington Primary School as a Church of England school are good.

Developing strategies introduced when acting head, the present headteacher has built a cohesive and stable team with Christian values at the heart of their commitment. They work together to nurture and challenge each one of their pupils. The whole school community is respectful and caring of others and learners respond positively. The school's Christian foundation underpins its daily life, evident in the atmosphere within the school and in the many displays.

Established strengths

- The dedicated headteacher and staff who promote Christian principles for the benefit of the whole school community.
- The wide variety of strategies employed to encourage every pupil to have self-respect, pride in their achievements and a caring attitude towards others.
- The enthusiastic and committed team of governors who value and support the headteacher, staff and pupils.

Focus for development

- To encourage a more positive and meaningful approach by pupils towards opportunities for quiet reflection.
- To build on present links with the local church communities to ensure continuity during the imminent inter-regnum.
- Foundation governors to be more closely involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of collective worship

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

Christian values, reflected in the welcoming and inclusive family atmosphere, are displayed and discussed in every class, and are the basis on which school life is founded. Strategies are employed to encourage all pupils to achieve success. Learners who struggle academically are nurtured with care, and individual programmes help to build confidence and self esteem, and to challenge the more able. Parents appreciate the respect shown to their children by staff, and the example they are set to be tolerant and respectful of others.

'Betty's bench', in memory of a much-loved member of the community, is a refuge for anyone feeling unhappy, and they are soon comforted by other pupils.

Behaviour is exemplary, and the occasional misdemeanour is dealt with in a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation. Relationships within the school community are open and pupils feel able to discuss spiritual and moral issues in depth with staff.

Achievement, effort and good attendance are celebrated, and learners proudly point out their 'leaf on the celebration tree' or the privilege of sitting at the 'VIP table' with the headteacher at lunchtime.

Charity fundraising, in which all pupils participate, has developed their caring attitude towards those less fortunate. School council members, elected by their peers, take seriously their responsibility for making decisions about the dispersal of funds raised.

Extra-curricular activities, some organised by volunteers from the local community, broaden pupils' experience of different sports, of art and of music.

Healthy eating is encouraged by awards given by the catering staff and the school has achieved Activemark and Healthy Schools' Status.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

Collective worship is an important part of the school day. It is carefully planned following the Anglican liturgical year. Opportunities are taken to differentiate the delivery of the Christian message in class worship when issues are discussed at a level appropriate to the maturity of the pupils or tailored to a situation in a particular class.

Whole school worship is in the hall, where there are displays to enhance Christian worship. The main visual focus is a table with a cross and candle, which, when lit, is a sign for quiet reflection. There are also areas, both outside and within the building, where learners have a space to reflect at other times. However, few pupils are aware of how to use this time meaningfully.

Pupils understand the reasons for prayer and a special school prayer is used with the Lord's Prayer during worship. They enjoy singing traditional hymns as well as the more modern or child-centred songs, and choral worship, led by the local church organist, follows the theme for the week.

Pupils experience different styles of worship from visitors, including the local incumbent, whose weekly visits are especially appreciated. Measures are being taken to engage members of the church to continue the weekly visits during the inter-regnum. Gener8 also come regularly, and support from the diocese and the Bishop's visitor is welcomed. Special services, held in the local church, are well-attended by parents and residents.

Foundation governors attend regularly, but are not fully involved in the monitoring or evaluation of the impact of collective worship.

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

Strong leadership from the headteacher has built a stable and hard-working staff, with a firm Christian foundation, committed to the welfare and success of all their pupils. A senior leadership team has been established, together with a tiered approach to management, which ensures all staff are an integral part of the management process.

Termly meetings to monitor individual pupil progress through effective target setting have been introduced and have raised achievement. Pupils experiencing problems are identified and discussed weekly.

Staff well-being is at the forefront of planning, and ways to relieve stress have been the subject of a special staff meeting. All staff feel valued and essential to the team, in an environment where Christian principles are paramount.

Governors value the headteacher and staff, and are aware of their role and responsibilities. They visit frequently to support decision making, or to help in classes.

The prospectus emphasises the school's Anglican foundation, and parents speak of the

Christian ethos which has so positive an effect on their children. Some choose to travel from out of catchment for this reason. They welcome the way they are kept informed, the openness of staff and the way their views are sought and considered. Governors take steps to ensure all parents have an opportunity to express their opinions. There is an active Friends' group, who organise events to raise funds for the school, supported by local residents as well as parents and staff. The school is seen as central to village life and the premises are made available to many local organisations in the evening and during school holidays.

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