

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Bayford C of E Primary School, Ashendene Road Lane, Bayford, Hertford SG16 8PX

Diocese: St Albans

Local authority:	Hertfordshire
Date of inspection:	3 rd July 2012
Date of last inspection:	15 th April 2008
School's unique reference number:	118387
Headteacher :	Mr Peter Jessop
Inspector's name and number:	Lindsay Fraser (107)

School context

This school is smaller than average and pupils are taught in four mixed-age classes. Almost all pupils are White British and come from a range of social backgrounds. There are no pupils at an early stage of learning English as an additional language and the number of children with disabilities and special needs is average. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is below average. Due to illness the headteacher was not in school at the time of the inspection; the senior teacher was leading the school during his absence.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bayford C of E Primary School as a Church of England school are good.

This is a good church school in which the pupils value the excellent relationships they enjoy with each other and with members of the staff. Pupils who were about to leave the school said, 'We shall really miss the teachers!' Parents can be confident that their children will be very happy, safe and secure in this school.

Established strengths

- An atmosphere of peace, calm and happiness, based on the Christian ethos which is valued by all members of the school community.
- The commitment of all members of staff, but especially the senior teacher to the ethos, values and community during a time of staff change and a period of uncertainty.
- The partnership with the local church and the commitment of the Reverend Canon Pauline Higham to all aspects of school life.

Focus for development

- To further develop the pupils' understanding and promotion of Christian values by undertaking a more pro-active approach to Values Education and encouraging pupils to plan and deliver aspects of Collective Worship.
- To monitor and evaluate the new policy for spiritual, moral, social and cultural education by charting the provision and impact across the curriculum and planning for future development.
- To enable the governing body to monitor and evaluate effectively the school as a church school through training on the Distinctive Christian Character.

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

The school has a strong Christian ethos in which all pupils in the school community work and play together in harmony. A range of Christian values are addressed within the setting of Collective Worship, but further emphasis on Values Education has been identified within the School Development plan in order to take pupils' understanding of social and moral issues to a higher level. Pupils are encouraged to think empathetically through the support of many charities such as Jeans for Genes, Children in Need, Samaritan's Purse and a Christian Balagram in India. Pupils distribute food from the Harvest Festivals to residents within the village, understanding that this is based on the Christian value of sharing. Since the last inspection more signage relating to the Christian status of the school has been put in place and most pupils understand the symbolism of the crosses and the candle. Situated in beautiful grounds the outdoor environment contributes to the spiritual development of pupils, especially the new outdoor classroom. Within the school an area is set aside for quiet reflection where children may draw, read, reflect or refer to a book of prayers. Some pupils make very good use of this area. A policy for the development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Moral (SMSC) has recently been drawn up, which has enabled staff to begin to think about the provision for SMSC across the curriculum in readiness to further develop this area. An example of moral and social development was observed in a literacy lesson where Key Stage One pupils were reading *The Gruffalo*, in order to consider their responses to the unexpected characters of the mouse and the Gruffalo. Parents value the effective teaching and learning of other faiths and cultures, as well as the emphasis on the teaching of Christianity, enabling pupils to have a better understanding of the multi-cultural world in which they live; 'Children's understanding is greater than adults' was a remark made by one parent. Relationships with the local church are strong and families are encouraged during the Friday Sharing Assembly to participate in the activities and services which take place in the church. Within the church a display board is used to publicise the work and activities which have been taking place in the school. The Reverend Canon Pauline Higham is a regular visitor to the school, involving herself not only in Collective Worship, but in other aspects of school life including the support of families when required. This is much valued by pupils, staff and many of the families.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Pupils enjoy Collective Worship, especially when the presentation is engaging such as the use of powerpoint to explain Fairtrade, the use of role play and excerpts from *The Brick Testament*. Pupils enjoy listening to the stories, but as yet take little part in planning and delivering Collective Worship. Since the previous inspection more opportunities have been taken to involve pupils during Acts of Worship such as taking the part of a shepherd in the re-telling of the story of *The Lost Sheep*. Pupils listened attentively to the story of David and Jonathan's friendship on the day of the inspection. Younger pupils responded enthusiastically with their ideas and thoughts, whilst older pupils were more reticent, preferring to respond to more closed questions. The Anglican tradition is developed through the celebration of festivals, the teaching of the Lord's Prayer and the use of prayer at the beginning of the day and before lunch. Themes are chosen which will engage the interest of the pupils such as the lives of those participating in the Olympics. The oldest pupils are invited to choose stories to use in Collective Worship. Evaluation of Collective Worship is at an early stage, but is proving to be helpful. Governors visit Collective Worship as part of their subject visits, with positive comments on the behaviour and attention of pupils noted. Prayers and signage around the school hall enable the pupils to remember school values and *The Lord's Prayer*. A prayer tree is readily used by the pupils for their own personal prayers.

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

The school's Christian foundation is effectively promoted by the school leadership, staff, clergy and governors; and is supported by the whole school community. The school's Christian foundation is made clear in public documentation and, since the last inspection, a mission statement has been drawn up by the Governing Body which is now displayed in the school hall. Recruitment procedures are very clear about the expectations of staff working in a church school. Staff at all levels are committed to the status of this school as a church school; this commitment was evident at the time of the inspection, during the absence of the headteacher. Staff are also committed to extra-curricular activities and to supporting the village such as Gardens Open Day, supporting the pupils at festivals and attending church services. Links with other schools in the area are strong. There is a high level of parental satisfaction with the school as a church school as seen in recent surveys. The Governing Body is proud of the Christian ethos underpinning relationships within the school. However, understanding how Christian values affect all areas of school life, including achievement and motivation, are areas for further development. Whilst governors pay regular visits to the school, monitoring and evaluation offer insufficient challenge. Governors are aware that training on the distinctive Christian character will be beneficial in this area.

SIAS report Bayford C of E Primary School, Bayford, Hertford, SG16 8PX July 2012