



### Broxbourne CE Primary School

<b>LEA:</b>	<b>Hertfordshire</b>
<b>SIAS Inspection:</b>	<b>4 July 2007</b>
<b>Previous S23 Inspection:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> October, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2002</b>
<b>URN:</b>	<b>1117437</b>
<b>Headteacher:</b>	<b>Mrs Shirley Whales</b>
<b>SIAS Inspector:</b>	<b>Mrs Lindsay Fraser</b>
<b>SIAS Inspector number :</b>	<b>107</b>

#### School context

Broxbourne CE Primary School has a roll of 245 children. Overall, children come from largely secure social and economic backgrounds. Attainment on entry to Reception is average to slightly above average. The percentage of children with special needs is below the national average as is the number of children receiving free school meals.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Broxbourne CE Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

The strong Christian ethos of the school ensures that all pupils are highly valued and supported. The Headteacher, Governors, Clergy and staff work hard together to ensure that the school's Christian foundation is not only firmly established and upheld, but also demonstrated in a practical manner in all aspects of school life.

#### Established strengths

- The inspirational leadership of the Headteacher and Governing Body in promoting a distinctive Christian vision
- The impact of Christian values on children's personal development and their relationships with each other.
- The extremely strong, supportive and effective links with the local church community
- The centrality of worship within the school and, in particular, the focus on prayer, which is fundamental to its Christian character.

#### Focus for development

- Ensure that teachers are secure in their knowledge of attainment levels in RE in order to plan for progression

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

The Christian ethos and practices in the school are very strong and enable all learners to feel valued and special. Pupils value and speak of the excellent relationships they enjoy with each other and their teachers. Parents speak of the very strong sense of right and wrong which the pupils have and expect of each other. Both parents and pupils refer to the importance of the Fair Rule which underpins whole school behaviour. Older pupils are given an increasing amount of responsibility and parents appreciate the care shown by older pupils towards the younger children when they first enter the school. Pupils speak proudly of the Millennium Trophy which encourages teamwork and a sense of belonging. They also value the opportunities to express their anxieties through the 'worry box', to express themselves through prayers which are displayed in the school corridors and the 'have your say' book in which they can record their appreciation or concern for any aspect of school life. Pupils demonstrate a sense of responsibility for the care of others in the wider world. They have been very keen to raise money to build a school in Pakistan following a visit from a CMS missionary. Many other charities have also been supported at the instigation of the Kingfisher Council. The school environment is used effectively to support spiritual development through the display of prayers, Year 3 poems entitled 'I wonder' inspired by the central verse of the bible, Psalm 118 v.8, and various other displays of high quality which portray the distinctive Christian Character.

**The impact of collective worship on the school is outstanding.**

Worship is central to the life of the school and underpins its Christian character. Collective worship is well planned by the headteacher in collaboration with the local clergy and other members of staff. Planning is based on a thorough evaluation of past practice. All teaching staff lead acts of worship. Excellent use is made of the parish church for celebrating the major Christian festivals which are extremely well supported by parents. Worship takes place within an atmosphere of calm and respect. Pupils speak enthusiastically about the content of Collective Worship and the impact of Collective Worship on their relationships with each other. The pupils take part enthusiastically in singing and talk appreciatively of these special times together. Prayer is a focal point of Collective Worship as can be seen in the learning of the Lord's Prayer, the display of prayers and the inclusion of prayers in the intercessions of Sunday Worship within the Parish. An understanding of Anglican faith and practice is well developed through the celebrations of all major festivals, the use of signs and symbols and learning about the vestments of the clergy. Pupils were praised for their participation in the installation of the new Priest-in-Charge.

**The effectiveness of Religious Education is outstanding.**

Religious Education is given a high priority in the school. This is reflected in the quality of RE displays throughout the school. Effective use is made of the Diocesan syllabus and QCA guidance. Standards of attainment are in line with those of other non-core subjects within the school. The pupils enjoy RE and recognise its relevance in their own lives. They also appreciate the importance of learning about other faiths. A wide range of teaching and learning styles are used in RE, including high quality ICT and creativity. Effective use of questioning for talking partners to develop good thinking skills was observed in one lesson. Assessment is used by the headteacher to monitor standards and coverage in RE, but further work on incorporating levelling into the planning of RE will enable teachers to incorporate assessment into their lessons, leading to better progression.

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

The headteacher, together with the governors and staff, has a clear and distinctive Christian vision for the school. The vision is clearly articulated in school documentation, displays around the school and recruitment and induction procedures. It is clearly understood by the school community. The involvement of Foundation governors and members of the local church in practical ways within the school adds to the promotion of the Christian vision. Regular monitoring visits by Foundation Governors enable focussed and informed discussions on the evolving Christian Character of the school. The role of the headteacher in supporting, understanding and respecting the well-being of her staff is valued by the governing body. Collective Worship is regularly led by the Anglican Priest-in-Charge, the Lay Reader and the URC minister. This close partnership may well have contributed to higher attendance at Family Services. The views of parents are regularly sought and parents particularly appreciated being consulted prior to visits to places of worship of other faiths. An active PTA gives very good support to the school and the confidence of parents to articulate their own Christian faith can be seen from the inclusion of prayer at the beginning of PTA meetings.