

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Broxbourne Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Mill Lane
Broxbourne
Hertfordshire
EN10 7AY

Diocese: St Albans

Local authority:	Hertfordshire
Date of inspection:	25 January 2012
Date of last inspection:	4 July 2007
School's unique reference number:	117437
Headteacher:	Mrs Shirley Whales
Inspector's name and number:	Mrs Lizzie McWhirter MA 244

School context

Broxbourne Primary serves the town of Broxbourne in East Hertfordshire, and is situated by the river. The symbol of the kingfisher is very much part of the school logo and gives its name to the school council. This school enjoys its close links with the nearby parish church of St Augustine's as well as the local United Reformed Church. Its 232 pupils are mainly from a White British background.

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

Broxbourne Primary has a very strong sense of being a worshipping and welcoming community, with prayer an important part of school life. Everyone feels they belong and all are encouraged to achieve. The pupils are given excellent opportunities and experiences which support their Christian pilgrimage. The school was recently shortlisted for The Church Schools Award.

Established strengths

- The strong sense of Christian community modelled by the headteacher, clergy, governors and staff, and embraced by the whole school community.
- The high quality of experiences offered to pupils in collective worship and religious education [RE], supporting their spiritual development.
- The importance of prayer in the life of the school.
- The pupils' love of learning and life.

Focus for development

- Enhance the evaluation of collective worship involving pupils and governors.
- In partnership with the clergy, establish a forum for philosophical debate.

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

Broxbourne Primary provides an inspirational learning environment where pupils are proud to belong, feel valued and achieve highly. This inclusive, cohesive community lives out gospel values seen in exemplary relationships which underpin policy and practice. Here is a school which is much loved by its pupils and much appreciated by its parent body. Pupils say 'the teachers always think of our point of view', ensuring learning is enjoyable. Parents praise both pastoral care and teaching standards as 'excellent'. They value the 'big family and real community' of which they are a part, citing how happy their children are to come to school where 'Year 6 say hello to the Early Years'. The school is seen to value the widest range of achievement and pupils feel able to make a positive contribution. They enjoy giving to charity through which they experience the Christian values of service and gratitude. Pupils choose their own charities, both local and national. One such example is this year's charity of 'Help for Heroes'. Pupils are also recording songs for 'My School CD for Africa' project. Their sense of global awareness is supported through links with Pakistan, nurturing their concept of belonging to the worldwide church. Bright, prominent displays and interactive prayer corners greatly enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The outdoor classroom and developing spiritual garden all contribute to pupils' engagement with the natural world.

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

High quality prayerful and meaningful worship is clearly at the heart of this school, permeating school life and practice. The attitude of pupils to collective worship is outstanding because the quality of worship offered to them is excellent, contributing greatly to their spiritual development. It is well planned and delivered, fully inclusive of all. An exemplary example is the popularity of 'Hooked on Worship', comprised of teams of pupils who plan and lead whole school worship every Wednesday. Pupils value owning worship, 'sharing with other people and 'actually doing it'. There is great support from the rector of St Augustine's Church as well as the minister of Broxbourne United Reformed Church which goes beyond worship. The clergy are welcome and regular visitors to school and pupils value the worship they lead as 'always fun with different ideas'. Pupils enjoy the rich variety of worship and see this as an opportunity to learn. As a result, spiritual growth and affirmation is very good. Pupils 'tweet' God and value The Lord's Prayer as well as their own school prayer, acknowledging that forgiveness means 'starting afresh, saying sorry and doing something about it'. Pupils enjoy worshipping in church for the key Christian festivals, speaking of how these 'make them think' and of the 'quiet, peaceful, calm' space they encounter. The school in partnership with the church has embarked on plans to develop The Creed and The Eucharist. Pupils' reflections on being part of the wider Anglican communion are enhanced by meeting a former pupil, now an archdeacon. Pupil Voice records children's reflections and perceptions on worship, and both pupils and governors welcome using journals of reflection to capture and enhance the evaluative work already taking place. As one pupil said, 'we definitely like to suggest ideas about making worship better', showing that worship is constantly evolving.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding.

RE enjoys a high profile and is well led and supported in this school where RE is the first subject to be reported to parents, ahead of literacy and numeracy. The RE co-ordinator has a real passion and enthusiasm for this important subject where pupils achieve high standards. An effective system of tracking and monitoring is in place, which informs planning and demonstrates achievement in RE. Staff are secure in their knowledge and use of 'I can' pupil levels of attainment, showing how the school has moved on since the previous inspection. Pupils say they enjoy RE, speaking with respect and knowledge about Christianity and the other world faith traditions. Pupil knowledge is deepened by Year 5's Faith Tour, visiting many different places of worship. High levels of enquiry and reflection are used. Excellent examples include Year 6's engagement with Holocaust Memorial Day and Year 2's exploration of 'what is beyond the stars'. Pupils demonstrate a high level of theological literacy, often asking questions such as 'How does God reveal himself to human beings?'. This has prompted the school to work in partnership with the clergy to establish a forum for discussing the deep questions of life.

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

The distinctive Christian vision is clearly evident and effectively promoted by the headteacher, clergy, governors and staff so that the school's Church of England foundation is celebrated amongst the whole school community. Everyone works hard to ensure the development of the whole child, equipping them for life. Everyone models the Christian vision and School Promise in 'Living God's Love'. Pupils have a voice through writing in the 'Have your Say' book and through the Kingfisher Council where everyone takes a turn. Parents find staff very approachable, speaking highly of the headteacher, her staff and governors for their visible presence and support. Foundation governors are active in the life of the school, taking the school forward in their systematic monitoring role, with clear areas identified for development. The parish church plays an active part in supporting the school's mission and high profile in the local community, sharing resources and working closely together with the school and diocese, so all are involved and consulted. Pupils' prayers are prayed in church weekly and published in 'Roundabout', the monthly parish magazine. In all these ways, Broxbourne is a school which is truly inclusive, shining as a beacon in the area it serves, thus modelling and contributing greatly to community cohesion.

SIAS report January 2012 Broxbourne Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Mill Lane, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire EN10 7AY