



## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### **Brockenhurst Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Sway Road  
Brockenhurst  
New Forest  
Hampshire  
SO42 7RX

**Diocese:**

**Winchester**

Local authority:

Hampshire

Dates of inspection:

2 July and 19 July 2013

Date of last inspection:

17 December 2007

School's unique reference number:

116276

Headteacher:

Mrs Trudie Cawthra

Inspector's name and number:

Rev Neil Birkett, Number 593

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Brockenhurst Voluntary Controlled Primary as a Church of England school are good.**

Brockenhurst Primary school is a good school with some notable features. The relationship between the senior leadership team, the staff, parents and children is commendable. This support is further enhanced by the local pastoral support, especially from both a sensitive and perceptive incumbent and his Church community. There is good evidence of a Christian ethos throughout the school, based upon mutual trust, caring and a sense of belonging, as well as numerous very good visual displays.

#### **Established strengths**

- The School leadership have a clear perspective and understanding of the strategies needed for the school to improve in the future to the benefit of every individual child.
- There is clear evidence of an explicit, visual, Christian ethos throughout the school.
- The pastoral care of the children, coupled with the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, is of a high standard.

#### **Focus for development**

- To embed further the children's perception and understanding of the school's 3 core values and to monitor and evaluate the impact on all aspects of pupil development and well being and the overall distinctive Christian character of the school.
- Foundation Governors to monitor and evaluate the impact of Collective Worship on the pupils and the school community.
- To develop greater involvement of pupils in the planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship.

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

There is a genuine commitment by all stakeholders to provide mutual support for 'their school' to attain and establish even higher standards of achievement in the future. Some stakeholders agree with the Ofsted judgement in 2012, that improvements were required. The school has made progress in raising standards in attainment since then and is committed to further improve the learning of the pupils.

The school has a good working atmosphere. Good relationships have been based upon the 22 Universal Core Values, which this year has been formulated into 3 Core School Values. This was a good democratic exercise, whereby the whole school were able to vote on what they considered to be their central and most important core Christian values, of Friendship, Freedom and Love. Nevertheless, judging from the pupils' lack of perception and understanding, these core Christian values need to be more firmly established within the minds of the pupils. The revised values are not yet fully embedded so the impact upon the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is not widely evident or fully assessed. The atmosphere within the school is deeply caring, relaxed and orderly. The pupils show courtesy and consideration to each other within the classroom, the playground and the dining room. The pupils feel very happy, valued and secure.

Parents are very supportive of the Christian morals and values taught and see they have a positive impact upon both behaviour and attitudes. They reported their children have clear opinions about a wide range of topics, whereby their children speak freely to them about moral/spiritual issues discussed in school. In addition, parents revealed that they would appreciate more communication, with reference to pupils' progress and development. They support the close ties with the local church especially when they are invited to the major festivals especially at Christmas and Easter.

Religious Education is based upon the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus with Christianity at its core and related to a study of World Religions which includes a variety of outside speakers. Some parents said they would appreciate additional opportunities for children to experience a more inquisitive and critical approach to both the Bible and Christianity.

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

Collective Worship is seen by the parents as having a good influence upon the pupils' Christian and moral development. The scheme for Collective Worship is organised and planned by the Headteacher, including all major festivals and services. The local Incumbent plans the Friday worship. Each theme/session is planned with considerable care and attention and has details of all the major Christian Festivals throughout the ecclesiastical year. These include an annual Eucharist, various celebratory and remembrance services, all held in the local church. The different types of Collective worship reported by the pupils included classroom activities, circle time and whole school gatherings.

The pupils stated that there is a 'worship group' which help with the preparation of Collective Worship, such as the 'setting up' and the music. Pupils said they would welcome a more robust involvement in the planning and the evaluation of Collective worship to provide more direct feedback to the school. The children revealed a good understanding of the main Christian stories, but were limited in their Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In addition, there are a number of visits to the local church for the major Christian festivals. Also, it was stated that twice a term there is a simple service, organised by the Mother's Union, called 'Little Flames' in the church, taken by the incumbent. This service brings together Mums, babies, toddlers, nursery children and the school's year R children and helps to provide both a very valuable and mutual beneficial link between the school, community and the church. In addition, the pupils attend a setting of 'The Life of Christ' in Godalming, Surrey and sing performances of 'Rabboni' in Winchester Cathedral.

The Collective worship observed, was a well orchestrated occasion for Brockenhurst school leavers of Year 6, which was planned by them and held in Winchester Cathedral. This special event was attended by parents and friends. The theme was centred on the memories of the

past, the present and preparations for the future. Various forms of action were chosen for the portrayal of this theme, with prayers/music/dance/poetry/Biblical readings from pupils, staff and the local incumbent.

A monitoring record is kept of the main Collective Worship, but there is no formalised method of evaluating the impact of worship which involves pupils. The Foundation Governors should be involved in the development and implementation of a process that will engage the whole school community in developing worship.

Although prayer has a place within the school life, there are additional opportunities for prayer, within the general life of the school, which would develop the spiritual understanding of the pupils even further.

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

The Senior Leadership and the Governing Body are fully committed to raising both academic and teaching standards and believe that the academic and personal development of each child is paramount. During the past six months, the leadership have been in the process of re-examining and developing a fresh approach to their role, within the context of helping the school to improve. This has been most notable in the necessity to monitor and evaluate pupil progress and to necessitate some difficult decisions. In addition, there have been recent debates concerning the new three core school values, which now need to be more strongly established within the minds of the children and the culture of the school. This evaluation will need to be strategically planned, monitored and assessed by the school leaders, to establish how far they contribute to the effectiveness of the school as a Church school

The three Foundation Governors are very conscious of their role as guardians of the Christian ethos of the school and have established both a vital and robust voice within the Governing Body. The Headteacher and the Governors support the advancement of the teachers in their endeavour to pursue a future career in a church school. Both Religious Education and Collective Worship arrangements fulfil the statutory requirements.

The link between the local church and the school is very strong, particularly through the involvement of the very enthusiastic and supportive incumbent, and members of the Parochial Parish Council. The school provides a regular and helpful contribution for the Parish magazine, in addition to an annual school report is presented by the Foundation Governors at the Parochial Parish Council Annual General Meeting.

SIAMS report July 2013, Brockenhurst VC Primary School, Hampshire SO42 7RX