

Church Broughton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Main Street
Church Broughton
Derbyshire
DE65 5AS

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire
Dates of inspection: 24th March 2010
Date of last inspection: October 12th 2006
School's unique reference number: 112871
Headteacher: Mrs Margot Davidson
Inspector's name: Mr A R Gilroy
Inspector's number: 007

School context

Church Broughton Church of England VC Primary School is a popular small primary school situated in rural south Derbyshire. The majority of pupils come from the village although a significant number come from outside the village. Most of pupils are of white British heritage. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals and of those with special educational needs are both below the national average. Since the last inspection there have been significant changes to the teaching staff.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Church Broughton CE VC Primary as a Church of England school are good.

The distinctiveness of the school is strongly promoted through collective worship that is based upon the Christian faith. The school provides a safe and stimulating environment in which the children are keen to learn. The caring attitudes of the headteacher, staff and governors exemplify the way in which the school's Christian principles are the foundation for its drive to be successful.

Established strengths

- The clear, principled Christian vision of the headteacher which is effectively put into practice by all staff and governors.
- The welcoming and caring Christian ethos in which every child really does matter.
- Relationships between pupils, staff and other members of the school are outstanding,
- Pupils and parents acknowledge the importance of collective worship and the key values that the school promotes.

Focus for development

- With the foundation governors, evaluate the impact of collective worship on the pupils.
- Increase opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship, prayer and reflection.

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

Virtually all pupils feel special and highly valued because of the individual care and recognition they each receive. The Christian values of care, consideration, respect, trust and forgiveness are core to the ethos of the school. These values are having a strong impact on the personal and spiritual development of the pupils. As a result, they exhibit an excellent attitude to school and outstanding behaviour. The atmosphere around school is relaxed and orderly. Staff work hard and effectively to ensure that the school environment is bright and stimulating. This successfully encourages pupils no matter what their background or ability, to fully engage and make good progress both academically and socially. Pupils know that they can approach teachers with confidence to resolve any concerns. The school recognises and values the learners' achievements each week during the celebration worship so that pupils are motivated to do their best. Christian stewardship is good and encouraged through a wide range of charity fund-raising. Such actions make the pupils very aware of the responsibility to

those in need. Although the building is somewhat cramped, the staff have found spaces for pupils to be able to sit down quietly and reflect and consider. Part of the school grounds is to be redeveloped to provide a similar peaceful area outside. Pupils say they enjoy coming to school, the work is fun and they feel safe. They are kind and considerate of each other across the age ranges. Parents are very supportive of the school's church foundation. They speak highly of the school and its level of care for the whole child. Parents say their children '*love school*', that they are excited by school, a very caring school, very inclusive, and really does care for everyone. Whilst the school Church of England status is important for very many families, all value the environment that the staff and governors have produced which enables their children to learn and who '*can't wait to get to school and find out what they are doing today!*'

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Pupils proudly report that worship is very important in their school. It provides a central focus for the whole school community, and clearly has a good impact on pupils' spiritual development and influences school life, offering good opportunities for pupils' spiritual development at the start of each day. They say that they enjoy singing, listening to stories from the Bible as well as particularly enjoying the opportunity for reflection and prayer. Quiet music, candlelight and a worship table are used well to create a peaceful and reflective atmosphere in which aspects of Christian belief are explored and affirmed. In the worship observed, pupils were engaged throughout showing a lively interest in the various parts of the service. Older pupils say that '*it is a time to stop and think, 'to chill, 'to be quiet and forget their problems and think about important things*'. Collective worship clearly has a good impact on pupils' spiritual development and influences school life. Pupils have a good knowledge of Biblical stories and can retell their favourites. Prayer forms a regular part of school life. Pupils read and write prayers for worship and enjoy participating actively in worship. At present, they are not involved regularly in the planning and delivery of collective worship. The school works with the church to celebrate the major festivals of the church year. During the inspection, classes were working on the Easter story in readiness for the celebrations in church the following week. As a result of such activity, pupils have a growing understanding of the church year and are developing a meaning in their lives. These services are well supported by the whole village community. Parents are welcomed in to collective worship and more and more are attending, They say that that they thoroughly enjoy it and one reported that she found it '*inspirational*'. They report that their children '*love worship and cant wait to share it with them when they get home*'. Relevant and meaningful worship themes are planned on a two year cycle and recorded with an informal evaluation taking place. Currently there is no formal evaluation of the impact of worship on the pupils.

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

The headteacher has a strong personal vision for the school built upon Christian values, driven by the notion that every pupil should be enabled to reach their full potential. This vision is shared with and fully supported by the whole school community. There is excellent support from the staff and governors who work together to implement this vision daily throughout the school. Foundation governors have a very strong interest in promoting the Christian distinctiveness of the school. They make a significant contribution to the life of the school, although their role of formally evaluating the Christian elements is limited. There are strong links between the governing body and the local church. All involved with the school work actively to strengthen links with the local community which are excellent. As a consequence community cohesion within the the locality is good. The school is developing links with a school in Tanzania which enable the pupils to gain a wider perspective. There are good links with the diocese whose adviser has been in school working with staff and governors. The school council is a strong feature of the school which promotes responsibility through involvement of pupils in school development. Pupils feel that they are consulted and are able to influence matters that concern them. Parents speak strongly of the values of the school and the care and concern shown to their children who are each valued as individuals. The parents feel that all staff and governors take the issues that they raise seriously. Parents say the headteachers communication skills are excellent, she hears concerns, deals with matters and reports back. In particular, parents reported that '*it is a school to be proud of*', and that '*the staff are fiercely proud of the children in their care*'.