



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Botolph's Church of England Primary School

Rookery Lane
Quarrington
Sleaford
NG34 7FE

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Dates of inspection: 18 September 2012

Date of last inspection: 29 April & 7 May 2008

School's unique reference number: 132251

Headteacher: Mrs Debbie Wilson

Inspector's name and number: Roger Moore NS343

School context

St Botolph's is a large Church of England primary school situated in Quarrington, part of the market town of Sleaford. The school is a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) school. The large majority of the 392 pupils who attend are of White British heritage. Only 5 children have English as an additional language. The headteacher was appointed in March 2012.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Botolph's as a Church of England school are outstanding

The school demonstrates a real commitment to living out its Christian values. The school is proud of its links with Quarrington Parish Church. This has a very positive impact on the whole school and its wider community, and gives all pupils a solid grounding for their future wellbeing. The Leadership team are enthusiastic and effective.

Established strengths

- Christian values underpin everything that is done at St Botolph's
- The positive impact of collective worship on pupils
- The leadership of the headteacher, deputy head, staff and governors, which sustains the school's Christian ethos

Focus for development

- To involve all stakeholders in planning and implementing development of spiritual spaces in outside areas of the school.
- To develop long term, medium term and short term planning for collective worship in conjunction with governors and children.
- Governors, headteacher and senior management team to consider how to further equip staff to become future leaders of church schools.

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

The headteacher, RE Coordinator, staff and governors see the school's Christian ethos as central to its life. Care and support for pupils and staff is outstanding. Clear Christian values are reflected in the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. A rolling programme ensures that the values identified and agreed by the children, staff and governors are covered in depth and are firmly embedded into the school's ethos. Behaviour is outstanding. Pupils have a real say in the making of rules through an effective School Parliament, so they know the rules are fair, and willingly keep to them. Pupils get on really well with each other and with all staff, who provide excellent role models. Pupils respond well to the encouragement they get for taking

responsibility for their actions and behaviour. Pupils readily approach staff with any problems they have, knowing that they will be helped. Excellent relationships successfully support pupils in developing their self-confidence and independence. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. They have a clear understanding of right and wrong, which is supported by the encouragement and example of all staff and governors. Pupils' have a high awareness and concern for the needs of others, and they are particularly good at supporting children new to the school. The staff has clearly identified roles and responsibilities embracing all aspects of pastoral care for staff and children. It was clear from discussions with the support staff that the Christian foundation is deep rooted and starts in the Foundation Stage where close links with pre-school groups and parents are well established. Values, behaviours and expectations are set from day one through a caring and thoughtful approach to ensuring that the children feel safe and secure in a Christian ethos.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Experience of worship starts at the beginning of school life for the children. There is a range of icons and artefacts such as the altar, stained glass windows and the font from the Quarrington Infants' School which was closed when the new school of St. Botolph's was created. These are strategically placed for maximum effect. The headteacher, governors, staff and pupils see worship as central to school life and as the focal point of each day. It is soundly based on Christian values, and always includes prayer, singing and teaching. Many of the acts of worship involve the children. The act of worship observed was outstanding. The school band consisting of children and staff provided high quality music and singing and those present were seen to really enjoy singing. Children were involved in acting out some parts of the David and Goliath story which provided real meaning for the children in the congregation. The vicar plays a key and active role in supporting and delivering collective worship both in school and in the church. Pupils through taking a lead role in many acts of worship enjoy and value the experiences offered. A candle provides a visual focus for worship, marking it as a special part of the day. Worship is well planned around themes reflecting Christian values and festivals, such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest, and these services are held in church. Children and adults enjoy collective worship and talk about it with interest, with many taking an active part. All members of the school community, regardless of background, feel included and affirmed by worship which often influences the thinking and day to day actions of the school community. The school prayer and the Lord's Prayer are regularly used in collective worship. The planning and evaluation of collective worship is thorough and creative, involving a range of those involved in its delivery. It is clear from observations, evaluations and comments from the pupils that collective worship has a real impact on the pupils. The church is regularly used as a curriculum resource as well as for the services. The school's Christian identity is visually evident throughout the school. All classrooms have dedicated display areas for religious education. Each classroom has a cross which has been designed and created by the children. The school environment makes a significant contribution to the spiritual development of all learners. There are areas outside where children can quietly reflect. Further development of the outside areas has been identified and plans are in place to continue to enhance this provision.

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

The leadership provided by the RE coordinator is excellent and her passion and enthusiasm for RE is evident throughout the school. The headteacher gives outstanding leadership to the school, and is exceptionally well supported by all staff and governors. The vicar is very active in supporting and promoting the Christian ethos of the school and alongside the headteacher provides strong and powerful leadership of the school as a church school. Religious education and collective worship are led very effectively by the co-ordinator. Together they promote a distinctive and active Christian vision for the school, with Christian values underpinning its life and work.

The staff are highly valued and involved in the school's development. They all work well together and enjoy the support given by the governors. This contributes greatly to the happy and supportive atmosphere existing amongst staff. The current staffing stability has a real impact on the family life of the school which is also seen to influence the wider community. Pupils make a positive contribution to school life. They are involved in the development and delivery of collective worship and their commitment to the spiritual dimension of the school is to be commended. The older children are very successful in working as mentors with the younger children, taking their roles very seriously and effectively influencing others.

Self assessment as a church school is rigorous and staff, governors and pupils are all involved in developing the Christian ethos of the school. All of the development points have been identified through the self-evaluation process. The foundation governors are very supportive. The school values the links with the church. Members of the wider community hold the school in very high regard. They acknowledge that the school's successful and purposeful family atmosphere is generated through its caring Christian relationships. Parents and the wider community feel well informed about the school's activities and enjoy being able to get involved in its life in many ways. Staff and governors benefit from personal, spiritual and professional development and there are strong relationships between the school and community in the Church, local faith communities, the diocese and the world wide church. The issues highlighted in the last report, have been successfully achieved.

SIAS report September 2012 St Botolph's Church of England Primary School, Rookery Lane, Quarrington, Sleaford, NG34 7FE