



Bourn Church of England Primary School

Riddy Lane
Bourn
Cambridge
CB3 7SP

Diocese: Ely

Local authority: Cambridgeshire
Dates of inspection: 7th March 2007
Date of last inspection: 11th March 2002
School's unique reference number: 110782
Headteacher: Mrs Christine Page
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Marion Betts 220

School context

Bourn School is a small school with five mixed age classes for pupils aged 4 to 11 years. Pupils come from the village of Bourn and surrounding villages. The majority of pupils are from a White British background with a few from other heritages. A very small proportion has English as an additional language. The number of pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities is below the national average.

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

The school has a very distinctive Christian vision which is shared by the whole school community. This has a significant impact on the pupils' personal and spiritual development. Pupils' well-being is paramount. Pupils are highly involved in all aspects of school life. Collective Worship holds a very high priority. The leadership of the school is continually seeking to develop the church school ethos.

Established strengths

- The headteacher and assistant headteacher provide very effective leadership which contributes significantly to the promotion of the distinctive Christian ethos.
- There is a very strong partnership between the school and the church.
- The pupils' personal, social and spiritual development is outstanding.
- Pupils feel valued and their contribution to the school is actively sought.
- Relationships of respect and care within the school community are very good.

Focus for development

The school has identified the following areas for development with which the inspector concurs:

- Increase the number of services held in church for the whole school community.
- Formally monitor the church school ethos and collective worship by the Foundation governors on a regular basis.

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

Pupils at Bourn School feel valued and special. They are confident, can communicate well and enjoy their school life especially the exceptionally wide range of enrichment activities provided and the class-led assemblies. They feel safe in school describing their teachers as caring, and ready to help with or offer challenge to their learning. Pupils of all ages are very proud to be able to present their own voluntary research to the whole school on a regular basis.

The pupils' personal and social development is outstanding. Class activities encourage the development of the pupils' own ideas and thoughts such as during regular debates and in designing parts of the school building, for example the sensory garden. The active school council participates in whole school decisions. Extra play equipment and the idea of a friendship bench are examples of this. Pupils undertake class and whole school responsibilities. Opportunities to work with others are provided by the frequent use of talking partners. The older pupils are linked with new admission pupils to help their induction into school life. Success both of achievement and personal development is recognised and celebrated during community assemblies with cup and medal awards.

Relationships and respect between all staff and children are very good and demonstrate the school's Christian context. The whole school is characterised by team work and a sense of positive well-being. Pupils behave well and their attitudes to learning are very good. All pupils know and understand the procedures to resolve any problems.

Pupils' spiritual, moral, and cultural development is very good. Cultural development is enhanced through multi-cultural weeks, language days and a link with a school in Ghana. The pupils have a strong sense of social awareness and support local and inter-national charities devising their own ideas of how to raise money.

The school environment encourages pupils' spiritual development well. There are attractive and stimulating indoor displays and pleasant outdoor areas including a nature reserve. Plans have been made to develop the nature area into a place for peace and reflection. The stained glass window in the school hall was designed and produced by pupils and staff and incorporates representations of fruits of the spirit and other features important to the school - music, nature and the Bourn windmill. Opportunities for spiritual reflection are also promoted by the high quality of creative art displayed.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

This is demonstrated by effective and thorough planning and the high quality of delivery. The worship co-ordinator as a member of the senior management team ensures its importance is paramount. Worship is monitored and improvements made. Foundation governors monitor worship informally by often being present. The headteacher's report informs the governing body about worship developments. The worship programme fulfils statutory requirements. The pattern of collective worship is diverse, and imaginatively led by the head, teachers, the vicar, an assembly team and by the pupils themselves. Invitations to join with the school in its worship are regularly given in the village newsletter and attendance of visitors for Friday worship is high. Worship is greatly enhanced by the very high quality of music produced by the school orchestra.

Worship promotes well the pupils' spiritual and moral development. The themes explain Christian values as well as following the liturgical year. Pupils are given time to reflect on the theme and its application to their lives. Prayer is often adult led but occasionally pupils are encouraged to read their choice of prayers or compose spontaneous prayers. Collective Worship evokes a positive response from the pupils who enjoy the stories and listen well. Pupils are involved in planning and delivering the prayers when worship is presented by the class. They either find appropriate prayers or compose their own. They also are responsible for choosing a hymn that is relevant to the theme.

The worship develops pupils' understanding of the Anglican faith. Pupils know the Lord's Prayer. Christian based hymns are used and the pupils sing enthusiastically. The school celebrates two major Christian festivals by the whole school being present at services at the local church. Plans to hold a service once a term in church have been made. Pupils are involved in delivering the worship. Parents, the church and village communities are invited and attendance is very good.

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

The headteacher and assistant headteacher provide very effective leadership which contributes significantly to the Christian vision of the school. The governors are actively involved in supporting this vision. The self-evaluation of the school as a church school is accurate and comprehensive. The school development plan always contains targets relating to improving the school as a church school. The new school name and logo make explicit the Church of England distinctiveness of the school. The staff understand, strongly support and implement the school's expectations for their roles in this Christian community and feel appreciated for their work.

Links with the local church are very strong. The local vicar regularly visits the school in his formal capacity and as a parent, and is known well by pupils, staff and the local community. The staff value his supportive role. The church is used as a resource for learning within religious education. As part of their religious education programme the vicar re-enacted a baptism service with the Reception children using parts of the Anglican liturgy. The headteacher's report within the Bourn and Caxton parish magazine, gives the school a high profile within the local and Christian communities. Members of staff occasionally participate at church services. The school's partnership with the local community is good. Pupils regularly sing to the over 60's group, play in the orchestra at the fete and invite the local community to their fund-raising events.

Links with parents are exceptionally strong. Parents are made aware of and support the Christian ethos of the school. They feel welcomed into the school, and encouraged to learn more about the curriculum by weekly class reports. They appreciate their views being considered through frequent questionnaires. Parishioners and parents are invited weekly to join the community assembly and are offered refreshments afterwards.