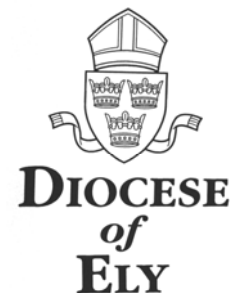


**Burrough Green Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Bradley Road  
Burrough Green,  
Newmarket,  
Suffolk  
CB8 9NH

**Diocese: Ely**

Local authority: Cambridgeshire  
Dates of inspection: 21 January 2008  
Date of last inspection: 13,14,15 and 17 October 2003  
School's unique reference number: 110783  
Headteacher: Steve Dennington  
Inspector's name and number: Robert Miller 357



**School context**

This is a small rural school that celebrates its tercentenary this year. Three quarters of all its pupils come from within the catchment area. There are 91 pupils on roll of which all come from White British backgrounds. Around 13 per cent of them have learning difficulties and disabilities. The head teacher took up his position 17 years ago and is due to retire this year.

**The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Burrough Green Primary as a Church of England school are good.**

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Burrough Green primary as a Church of England School are good. The ethos statement is clear, regarding the wish to educate its pupils within a Christian environment. This is achieved in an outstanding atmosphere of love and care. Relationships between head, staff, pupils, parents, incumbent and church are at the heart of this success.

**Established strengths**

- Excellent relationships and support of pupils by adults at the school.
- The manner in which all pupils feel valued, special and flourish as learners.

**Focus for development**

- Engage governors, clergy and parents more in raising the quality of acts of collective worship.
- Include pupils in the planning stages of collective worship.
- Improve pupils' multi-cultural development by providing more opportunities to learn about faiths and cultures other than their own.

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

Burrough Green is a happy, caring school where the staff act as excellent role models, based on Christian principles. Children say they are respected, valued and listened to by staff. Parents say that the school has a special quality that enables their children to gain 'a good all-round education provided by a very caring staff'. Pupils love coming to school and enjoy the excellent learning opportunities provided. Pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities are well cared for and supported, as they seek to fulfil their potential. The Christian identity inside the school is evident through the wall displays depicting themes of sharing with and caring for each other and those less fortunate than themselves. These features have a positive impact on the good provision for pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. However, the lack of visits to places of worship and visits by people from other faiths detract from pupil's multi-cultural development.

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

Acts of collective worship are sound in quality. They form an important part of school life and are enjoyed by pupils and parents alike. Worship currently takes place in the hall. The hall is transformed for this purpose with a lighted candle and music provided by compact disc. A permanent wooden cross on the table at the front of the hall, together with the candle, act as the focal point. Pupils say they enjoy singing hymns and that heard during the inspection was good. Pupils say that worship teaches and helps them to pray. They enjoy being able to take part in re-enactments of stories based on Christian principles such as showing friendship towards their neighbour. The older pupils know and understand the Lord's prayer and all children pray collectively before starting the lunch period. Worship makes a sound contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development, by making them reflect on their relationships with each other and the wider world.

The recent appointment of a permanent vicar has had a positive effect on worship. She leads Anglican services both in the school and at the parish church where the community is also invited to join the children, parents and staff. All staff share the responsibility of planning worship but it currently lacks formal evaluation, taking into account the views of visiting governors, parents and pupils in an effort to raise standards still further.

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

The quality of the leadership of the chair of governors working in close partnership with the head teacher, contributes significantly to the success of the school. Together with the staff and governors, they promote the Christian vision for the school, by treating staff and children alike with mutual respect. This is reflected in the very good behaviour and attitudes of most children. The school staff work closely as a team and they receive strong support from its leaders. The school's management team and governors are establishing clear systems that inform the school's self-evaluation process. The areas identified for school improvement are accurate and include music, in an effort to further enhance the children's spiritual development. Foundation governors have a monitoring role for acts of collective worship and this is currently being formalised to feed into the evaluation process. Governors share the Christian vision for the school, as do parents and pupils. Parents are surveyed for their views. Parents speak very highly of all that the school does to ensure their child flourishes as an individual. Links between the school and the Parochial Church Council [PCC] are good by virtue of a parent being a member and also having the role of community liaison officer for the school. The local Church is used for some school events and as a learning resource.