



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Barrowby Church of England Primary School

Church Street
Barrowby
Grantham
NG32 1BX

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire
Dates of inspection: 6 December 2011
Date of last inspection: February 2007
School's unique reference number: 120513
Headteacher: Mrs Sylvia West
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Jackie Sheldrake 255

School context

Barrowby Church of England Primary School serves the village of Barrowby and surrounding area and with 242 pupils it is of average size. Almost all pupils come from white British backgrounds. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is similar to that found in schools nationally. The school holds a number of awards including the Basic Skills Mark and Healthy Schools and Eco-Schools Silver status.

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

Christian values are understood, shared and daily lived out within this happy and inclusive school. High quality teaching and learning experiences enable pupils to make excellent progress and to achieve well. Pupils understand the importance of caring for others and of giving their best.

Established strengths

- The commitment by governors and staff to maintain and develop the strong Christian ethos that permeates all areas of school life.
- The level of care and nurture together with outstanding provision that enables all members of the school to thrive and achieve well.
- High quality collective worship and religious education that supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- High quality of relationships, behaviour and attitudes to work.

Focus for development

- Enable pupils to gain further experience and understanding of living in our multicultural and multi-faith society.
- Consider the role of the governing body in monitoring and evaluating the impact of collective worship on those present.

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

This is a happy and deeply caring school where Christian values of love, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation underpin all aspects of school life and impact strongly on the experiences of all. Pupils speak with assurance of the influence of such values on their day to day lives. They talk confidently of being valued for themselves. As one pupil said, 'I like it here. I am accepted'. Pupils confidently share their understanding of the importance of forgiveness and of reconciliation. 'We say sorry – it's alright. There isn't anything to add to that conversation. It is ended.' Relationships between all groups are outstanding and pupils from across the school speak positively about their enjoyment of working and playing with each other. Good teaching, a rich curriculum and high quality learning experiences enable outstanding progress and high levels of achievement. Pupils of all ages are able to focus and reflect on their experiences and to make connections with their own lives. This was very well illustrated within a Foundation Stage/Year 1 religious education (RE) lesson where elements of Christian belief and practice on the theme of Light were successfully and imaginatively explored through first hand experiences. The school makes good use of its environment to celebrate its Christian foundation and to offer opportunities to nurture the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. This was seen both in the provision of the Key Stage I Sensory Garden and throughout the school building where high quality displays celebrated pupils' achievements and the values of the school. The outdoor learning area will be further enriched with the realisation of the planned leavers' legacy in the grounds. Throughout the school pupils' behaviour and attitude to work are outstanding. This achievement was very well demonstrated in the Year 6 RE lesson as discussion and ideas flowed on the theme of divine dreaming in the context of Christianity and Islam. Pupils were able to reflect and share their own experiences of dreaming and sensitively respond to the input of others. Pupils are aware of the needs of others both within school and in the wider community. They happily help each other in their work and at play older pupils help the younger ones in a relaxed and natural manner. Members of the school give generously to appeals to aid the needs of differing communities whether local, national or worldwide. Pupils are proud that their involvement with the Mustard Seed Project, to found and support a school in Kenya, continues to succeed. Parents value the accessibility of staff and speak highly of the caring and inclusive nature of the school. They value the family atmosphere and the way in which the school encourages independence and teaches their children 'to think for themselves'.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.

Collective worship is central to the daily life of the school and as one pupil explained it is a time for 'coming together as one'. It is recognized as a time for reflection, prayer and celebration and understood by pupils to be a time to come together to think about Jesus. The worship observed was a joyous occasion which made an outstanding contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It acknowledged the love of God, allowed time for praise and thanksgiving and celebrated the season of Advent within a setting that honoured the occasion. Through skilful delivery, inspiring PowerPoint slides and with pupil assistance, the theme of Jesus the King was illustrated and explored. All those present showed a high level of interest and were keen to respond and contribute. Opportunities for reflection and prayer were important and valued aspects of the occasion. Singing was outstanding and the pupils' faces as they sang illustrated their delight in being present. Collective worship is well planned and regularly led by the headteacher and members of staff. It is underpinned by Christian values and teaching, the ethos of the school and linked to the social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) programme. Pupils gain experience of worship in a number of settings in school, in the parish church and in a larger Grantham church. Pupils gain a good understanding of Anglican practice and belief through the regular input of the Ministry Team of the parish church, including the Rector and Reader and the deanery children's worker. Through the involvement of the Baptist Fellowship Children's worker and the wider Christian community pupils are gaining understanding of Christian denominations both in the surrounding locality and beyond. Pupils enjoy their involvement in the delivery of worship which ranges from assisting adults, singing with the school choir to planning and delivering school celebration services in church. Monitoring and evaluation

takes place through discussions between the collective worship leader and staff and pupils. Consideration now needs to be given to extending this process to enable governors and pupils to share more fully in gauging the impact of collective worship on those present.

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

The headteacher, governors and staff successfully nurture their deep commitment to uphold, encourage and further enrich the Christian foundation of the school. Through their efforts and with the support of the whole school community a vibrant Christian ethos guides and impacts on all areas of school life. Within this happy and high achieving school there is a real focus on valuing every child for themselves and encouraging everyone 'to do your best and be your best'. All members of staff work as a united team well supported by the governing body, parents, and local community. Governors have a good knowledge of the school and are proactive in future planning. Together with staff they have accurately used monitoring and evaluation as a tool to guide future development. Foundation governors now need to consider extending their role in monitoring the work of the school as a church school to include the impact of collective worship on those present. Within the present provision of a rich and wide-ranging whole school curriculum the school recognises the need to further pupils' understanding and experience of the multicultural and multi-faith society in which they live. The school council and class councils ensure that pupils' views and aspirations for the school are heard and acted upon. Parents readily give their views on development issues through questionnaires and discussion meetings. They acknowledge the impact of Christian values on the high quality of education received by their children. Collective worship and RE enjoy high status and each are of excellent quality. These areas are well led by a knowledgeable and enthusiastic subject leader. The governing body have ensured that appointment procedures enable staff new to the school to support and further encourage the Christian values of the school. Many of the church's members make an extensive contribution to the life of the school. The close and cooperative links with the parish church and wider Christian community of Barrowby and Grantham bring much to the life of the school and the church. All development areas highlighted in the previous denominational inspection report have been addressed.

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