



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Bradley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School

Sherwood Avenue,
Bradley,
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire HD2 1RQ

Diocese: Wakefield

Local authority: Kirklees
Dates of inspection: 28th June 2007
Date of last inspection: Summer 2002
School's unique reference number: 107703
Headteacher: Mrs Adele Stringer

Inspector's name and number: Roger Highton 336

School context

Bradley Junior school has 207 pupils and is situated on the northern edge of Huddersfield. It shares the same building as Bradley Infant school. There is much cultural diversity in the area. The majority of the pupils are entitled to free school meals and the number of pupils with learning difficulties is above the national average. The school has recently been refurbished.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bradley Junior as a Church of England school are good

The head teacher, senior leadership team and governors are having a great impact on the school. Bradley Junior's distinctiveness has an effect on all of its learners. Its relationship with the local community and church are strong and the pupils are proud of their school. Collective worship and religious education make a major contribution to the life of this school.

Established strengths

- School's relationship with the local church
- Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship
- Leadership in religious education
- School's care and support of its pupils

Focus for development

- Carry out self evaluation of the school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church school
- Extend the opportunities for prayer within school
- Make collective worship more distinct from assembly
- Provide out of school visits to enhance pupils' religious education

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

The pupils believe Bradley Junior is a good church school. They feel safe and trust that other people's cultures and backgrounds will be valued. They also enjoy religious education and know it is important in their school as "teachers never leave it out". The religious education co-ordinator is committed to enhancing the subject through drama, art and crafts. Visits to local religious buildings would also help enrich the curriculum. All learners are included in the life of the school. There is a special inclusion room where pupils are supported to work their best. Support staff are a strong part of the team and all relationships within school are based on Christian values. The pupils know that it is these values that make their school distinctive and they feel "let down" when others fall short of their shared beliefs. The vicar is a regular visitor and pupils respond well to his friendship, often asking probing questions such as, "If one day something terrible happened and everyone died – would God start again?" The pupils have pride in their school. The recent renovation of the building has helped create a welcoming school well suited to learning. Spaces are enhanced through colourful displays many of them reflecting the school's church status. The hall displays a prominent cross that is framed by the words of the Lord's Prayer. The appointment process for staff includes reference to the school's church status and the selection panel often start their work with a prayer.

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

Worship is integral to the life of the school. The head teacher has sought the views of the pupils. They say they like having a chance to speak to God, to sing and listen carefully to prayers. All teachers regularly lead collective worship as do members of the local church. The detailed evaluation of worship helps to make the events more effective. For example, the staff know pupils respond well to a combination of images and music during reflection. The pupils listen well, taking an active part in worship and sing their hearts out. Prayer is restricted to acts of collective worship and the distinction between assembly and collective worship is not always clear. The school holds at least one service each term in the local church. Many parents attend these events. Members of staff are invited to attend a morning prayer with the infant staff. The church also provides activity sessions and informal services for pupils and their parents. Last year, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Junior and Infant schools, there was a major community celebration centred round a service that was led by the Bishop of Wakefield.

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

The school is on a journey of improvement that has changed the whole ethos of the school. The Headteacher has a clear vision for Bradley Junior which is to "improve the academic, social, moral and spiritual development of every child so they can make the most of life's opportunities". This vision is reflected in the school aims and is supported by the governors, members of staff and the local church. The governors effectively monitor and challenge the leadership of the school. The leadership of the school has yet to carry out a detailed evaluation of Bradley Junior's effectiveness as a Church school. However, the head teacher is outstanding in the way she seeks the views of pupils and parents. Every half term pupils are interviewed as part of the school's self evaluation process. Thus the learners have a direct hand in deciding the appropriate school improvement priorities. Parents feel the school is very welcoming and comment that their concerns often result in direct action taking place. An example is the teacher led session to help parents assist their children with homework. The head teacher effectively draws on the support of the local church and the vicar describes this relationship as a partnership that is mutually beneficial. Both the school leadership and church have nurtured a really close and supportive team. Pupils like hearing the laughter from the staffroom and appreciate the way staff care for them. The head teacher's commitment to improve the distinctiveness of Bradley Junior is without question and she sees this as a key part of her personal development. Bradley Junior is a good church school that is improving – as the vicar says, "...the school is now full of hope".