



Department for children,
Youth and Education



THE CHURCH
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*STATUTORY INSPECTION
of
ANGLICAN SCHOOLS
S48
INSPECTION REPORT
for*

*Blakedown C of E (VC) School.
Birmingham Road,
Blakedown,
Kidderminster,
Worcestershire.
DY10 3JN*

Head Teacher: Mrs Helen Beckford-Bond

Inspector: Mrs Sue Fitzjohn

Inspection date: 1st May 2012

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Blakedown C of E (VC) Primary School,

Birmingham Road

Blakedown

Kidderminster

Worcestershire

DY10 3JN

Diocese: Worcester

Local authority: Worcestershire

Dates of inspection: 1st May 2012

Date of last inspection: 1st December 2008

School's unique reference number: 116796

Headteacher: Mrs Helen Beckford-Bond

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Sue Fitzjohn NS. 219

School context

Blakedown Church of England is smaller than the average-sized primary school. The great majority of pupils are White British. There are 108 pupils on roll who populate four mixed-age classes. The exceptionally well cared for school buildings and well designed grounds provide pupils with many opportunities for learning and play. The school has achieved the Artsmark Gold, the International Schools award at intermediate level and the ECO Schools Green Flag award.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Blakedown as a Church of England school are outstanding

Blakedown Church of England First School is a welcoming, friendly and joyful place where relationships are strong and firmly based on Christian values. The creative curriculum and stimulating outdoor environment provide rich and varied opportunities to promote the children's spiritual, moral and social development. Staff, governors, parents and members of the parish work well together to support the strong Christian ethos which permeates this church school.

Established strengths

- The school's vision and Christian values are central to every aspect of school life
- Excellent relationships are present between all members of the school community
- Strong, mutual and supportive partnerships exist between the school, parish church and local community

Focus for development

- Establish an educational and purposeful global partnership to develop pupils understanding of their role in the global community

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

Blakedown Church of England Primary School is a caring and friendly community which ensures that everyone feels valued as a unique child of God. The strong Christian character assures all children enjoy school and are given many opportunities to fulfil their potential through leadership of different areas of school life. Parents firmly believe that this ethos has a positive impact on their children's lives. This is demonstrated through the manner in which they interact with others. The values of love, care and respect are shown by both the adults and children. These values are fostered through the school buddy system which is one of the methods used to welcome new pupils into the school family. Children are proud of the success of this scheme and know that it contributes towards the friendly and caring atmosphere within the school. Children also take an active part in the parish and local community through involvement with grandparents and senior citizens, organising a recycling bank and with local litter picks. These and other activities contribute towards the ethos in which responsibility and caring are key. Very strong relationships exist across the whole school community. Pupil behaviour is excellent and they know that any inappropriate behaviour is dealt with promptly and fairly. Children learn to make good choices and that each new day brings a fresh start. Parents also have confidence in the Christian character of the school and are clear that it contributes strongly towards the pupils'

attitudes. Children are enthusiastic about their school, take pride in their own work and are joyful about the achievement of others. Spiritual learning is planned and developed through the whole curriculum and is effectively resourced and promoted. The children's vocabulary in this regard shows a deep level of understanding as they talk easily about how faith has influenced their lives and has impacted on their spiritual journey. Vibrant, colourful displays which are evident throughout the school, celebrate learners' achievement. They also play a significant role in pupils' spiritual development as they confirm that everyone is unique and special in the eyes of God. The eco committee and school council contribute very well to school life through their input into the school environment and fund raising for charities. Children know that God loves everyone and that through their environmental work and charitable activities they are caring for God's world and showing God's love for others. All children understand their school badge and are proud of the fact that the cross is in the centre of the shell of St James. A child said, *'the cross truly represents our school'*.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship has a fundamental place in the life of this school and supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of learners. The school's Christian values are emphasised by the daily act of worship which is well planned and based on the scheme 'Values for Life' with careful reference to the school's shared vision and values. All members of staff attend times of collective worship and are on the rota to lead it, thereby evoking a sense of shared community. Learners take an active part in preparing the space for worship; they choose music, take part in drama, read Bible stories and lead prayer. On the day of the inspection the worship council planned and led worship based on the value of truthfulness. They proudly wear a cross as the badge of their responsibility. Learners contribute regularly to the evaluations of collective worship and one child commented that *'it is the special part of the day when we get to praise God together'*. Children have a deep understanding of prayer and are given different opportunities to say prayers. They regularly use, and understand, the Lord's Prayer and also some Anglican responses to prayer. Prayer and reflection play an important part in daily life of learners. One child said, *'when you pray you know you've got someone on your side'*, and another child added, *'you feel closer to God'*. The parish priest is a great support and regularly leads collective worship. Major church festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter are celebrated in the parish church. Children love being actively involved thus further strengthening the links with the church and enhancing the children's understanding of a Christian community. Parents value being invited to be part of a weekly time of collective worship as well as joining the school for celebration of the major festivals. They appreciate these opportunities and are positive in their comments about the impact on themselves and their families because it makes them feel part of the worshipping community. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian and develops well the children's understanding of the Anglican tradition.

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

The head teacher, staff, governors, parents and children have developed together a clear vision and values statement for the school. Through open meetings the school community identified their loves, wishes, dreams and opportunities for the school. This vision is clearly communicated by all members of the school community. The active involvement of the parish priest, foundation governor and members of the local church, in practical ways help to promote the Christian foundation further. Governors are firmly involved in the school and with parents and children contribute to the evaluation and monitoring of the Christian dimension. The school's Christian character is fully reflected in policies and practices. This is a reflection of the high priority given by the leadership of the school to the distinctive Christian character. It fulfils the focus for development from the previous Diocesan inspection report. The close links with the local parish, through the parish priest and foundation governor, are an important part of the way in which the school expresses its Christian character. The headteacher as religious education (RE) co-ordinator links her role as worship co-ordinator and leader of the school very effectively and plays a key role in the development of the Christian character of the school. Through a creative curriculum good teaching and learning takes place. Children are enthusiastic about their work in RE and through learning about Christianity and other faiths are able to speak openly and with respect of the beliefs of others. The school is actively involved in a link with another UK school in a different social setting, thus developing the children's awareness of other cultures and beliefs. The school has not developed a sustainable global link with a school. Leadership by children is very well developed as they play vital roles in partnership with the adults in leading the school through the eco committee, school and worship councils. Parents are very positive about the contribution the Christian ethos makes to the lives of the children. They particularly appreciate the fact that the school environment allows and encourages their children to talk comfortably about a spiritual dimension and that they are given an opportunity to learn about how the Christian faith can have an impact on their daily lives.



Judgement Recording Form (NSJRF)

Name of school: Blakedown C of E (VC) Primary School

Address of School: Birmingham Road
Blakedown
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY10 3JN

School URN: 116784

Date of inspection: May 2012

NS Inspector's Number: 219

Type of Church school: Voluntary Controlled

Number of pupils: 110

Phase of education: Primary 4 - 11

Has Diocesan Quality Assurance been obtained for this report? Yes
Rating 1-4

How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church school?	1
How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?	1
What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?	1
How effective are the leadership and management of the school, as a church school?	1
The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship	Yes