



Broadwater CE First and Middle School, Worthing

Diocese of Chichester

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

Inspection Report



Date of inspection:	31 March and 1 April 2011
Name of inspector:	Allison Goodfellow
NS inspector's number:	504
School address:	Rectory Gardens Worthing West Sussex BN14 7TQ
Unique reference number:	126033
Status:	Voluntary Aided
Number on roll:	490
Age range of pupils:	4 - 12
LA:	West Sussex
Name of chair of governors:	Liz Crockett
Name of principal:	Janet Sharp
Name of headteacher:	Jez Wong
Date of previous inspection:	June 2008

The inspection of denominational education and collective worship in the school was carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Description of the school

Broadwater CE First and Middle School is a large school serving the eastern side of Worthing. There are sixteen well resourced classrooms with good-sized practical rooms, quiet areas and additional specialised accommodation. There are strong links with the four worship centres within the large parish of Broadwater where there is a strong evangelical tradition and a focus on modern, all age, family worship. The school is regularly over-subscribed as a result of informed parent choice; parents actively seek a church school place for their children.

Summary judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Broadwater CE First and Middle School, Worthing as a Church of England school are outstanding.

There is a very strong Christian ethos of care that is reflected in all areas of school life. The high quality of leadership and management provided by the principal, headteacher, leadership team and governors contributes strongly to the success of the school as a Church school. The staff team, with excellent support from the churches and clergy in the Broadwater area of Worthing, provide a relevant and appropriate education for all the children. The school premises and grounds make a very positive contribution to the Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural development of all pupils.

As a result, the school readily meets the children's intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs.

Grade: 1

Established strengths

- The strong Christian vision of the leadership team and governors
- The Christian ethos of the school in which all pupils are valued and encouraged to succeed
- The commitment of the principal, the headteacher, staff and governors to a culture of on-going improvement of the school as a Church school
- The close, positive links between the school and local churches

Focus for development

- Embed assessment in Religious Education (RE) so that the more accessible data produced can inform teaching and learning

The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship	Yes
The school meets the statutory requirement for Religious Education	Yes

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

A very strong spiritual ethos permeates the school, enabling all children to achieve well and to nurture their individual gifts, regardless of their ability. Children are seen as special because they are special to God; their care, safety and well-being are paramount. Attractive displays around the school, in the grounds and in classrooms, reinforce the importance of RE, Personal, Social and Citizenship Education (PSCE) and worship. Well integrated programmes of study, involving specialist teachers and support staff, are in place that ensure children with additional needs receive targeted support and the needs of the more able children are identified and supported through differentiated teaching. Excellent transition involving pre-schoolers and the 'buddy' system throughout the school enables children to settle quickly into school and readily begin their learning journey. Many of the older children comment that whilst excited at the prospect of the move to their secondary school, they will leave Broadwater School sadly and with many happy memories. The spiritual, moral and social development of the children is outstanding; they are kind and considerate to each other and unflinchingly polite and confident when speaking to visitors. Children have a very clear understanding of right and wrong; their behaviour is excellent. They have a good knowledge of global communities and fundraise regularly for local and international charities. This has developed the children's understanding of less privileged and more diverse parts of the United Kingdom and the world.

There is a strong pupil voice. Pupils are regularly consulted and their views valued and often acted upon. Consequently, children develop into confident individuals willing and able to contribute to school life. An updated behaviour plan and school prayer have arisen from suggestions by the children; they are child-friendly and well respected by the pupils.

Grade: 1

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is outstanding.

Collective Worship is central to the Christian ethos of the school and is important in influencing behaviour and attitudes. Worship is well planned and inclusive. Often linked to the church's calendar and to a programme of Christian values, themes are developed effectively, often over several weeks. Collective Worship, the PSCE curriculum and RE are often linked so there is much evidence of the spiritual development and understanding of the children being deepened through work in a variety of settings. The children are able to describe ways in which worship has enabled them to make good decisions - about friendship issues for example - and to share these with trusted adults in school and at home. The leadership team, governors and school council evaluate Collective Worship regularly to continually raise its profile; recent changes include a worship band and the appointment of a songs of worship leader. The views of the children are respected and ideas, wherever possible, are incorporated into the worship programme. The children particularly enjoy worship when other children are involved; in drama, readings, prayers and music and pupils often lead significant parts of worship and volunteer to lead prayers. The children are learning important prayers from the Anglican tradition and many lively, action-filled Christian songs accompanied by staff and pupil musicians and the school choir. These enhance Collective Worship in school and reinforce links between the school and the local churches.

Grade: 1

The effectiveness of Religious Education is outstanding.

Religious Education makes an outstanding contribution to the ethos of the school and to the children's spiritual and moral development; the tracking of pupil progress in RE indicates that standards and progress are at least good. In Year 1, the children were explaining why Christians celebrate Easter. One young child said, 'Jesus saved us. He took away all the bad things we have done!'

A comprehensive policy is linked to a cycle of child friendly themes. The policy includes planning, with cross-curricular links, clearly linked to assessment criteria. Level descriptors provide a best fit level twice a year. The levels are beginning to be recorded electronically and they are moderated by the RE subject leader. Teachers use the assessments to identify those children requiring additional support so that work can be differentiated to meet individual learning needs.

The subject leader monitors RE termly in a variety of ways and uses this to identify training and resource needs. The quality and quantity of resources are very good. The subject leader support staff and provides ideas and advice to help them improve and develop. Lessons are well planned, lively and active so children are motivated throughout, with a high level of collaboration. As a result, the children report that they really enjoy their RE lessons. In the lessons observed there was evidence of open questions, ICT and drama, to explore how those present at the crucifixion felt about what was happening. Ideas were discussed sensitively and shared. A deep discussion followed. One child said, 'It is quite mean to say 'Come down from the cross if you are the Son of God' because that is what God was telling Jesus to do – to save others, to sacrifice Himself for others'. The level of engagement and debate was outstanding.

Grade: 1

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

The impressive level of leadership and management provided by the principal, the headteacher, leadership team and governing body contributes significantly to the success of the school. All have a clear, Christian vision for school development and have demonstrated this through the creation of a vibrant learning environment, which is evident to all who visit or attend the school. Robust, self-evaluation ensures that governors know the school well. The introduction of a creative curriculum and on-going changes to assessment across the curriculum, including RE, has strengthened these areas. Links with local churches and the community are strong and positive. The children know the local clergy well and are familiar with the local churches. JAB (Jesus at Broadwater), a Christian lunchtime activity, led by clergy and parishioners, is popular and well supported. Many children and their families attend church regularly. Leaders of worship include clergy from the parish teams, visitors from other local churches and from a variety of Christian organisations. The children enjoy this diversity and respond well to it.

The school is over-subscribed as a result of informed, parental choice; parents are actively seeking a church school for their children and are keen to support aspects of the school's work. Parents report that they love the school, feel it is very special because it is a Church school and comment that it has a special quality that enables all children to flourish; they particularly value the ease of access to staff. 'This is a school that listens', said one parent

Leadership is strategic and forward-looking; a commitment to professional development and succession planning ensures that the staff team is stable and future staffing needs are addressed in good time.

Grade: 1