

Bramcote Church of England Primary School

Hanley Avenue
Bramcote
Nottingham
NG9 3HE

Diocese: Southwell & Nottingham

Local authority: Nottinghamshire County Council

Dates of inspection: 20 April 2012

Date of last inspection: 11th June 2009

School's unique reference number: 122788

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Meredith

Inspector's name and number: Mr Nick Harding 323

School context

This is a small primary school within a suburban area on the edge of the Nottingham conurbation. The school population is mostly of white British background, with other ethnic and faith communities being represented in small numbers. The school has achieved a number of national awards, and has expanded after the building of new accommodation since the last inspection.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bramcote CofE School as a Church of England school are OUTSTANDING

This school is underpinned by clearly expressed Christian values in the stated aim to support 'life in all its fullness', making it distinctive. It is effective through the leadership of the headteacher, senior management and governors, and the obvious commitment of the staff to provide a safe, caring, Christian environment that allows all pupils to flourish and achieve their full potential.

Established strengths

- Well-planned and delivered religious education (RE) curriculum, with very good resources and a commitment to move forward
- Committed leadership of the staff team who work very hard for the good of all pupils
- Dedication and spiritual vision of the school leadership working with the local church
- The spiritual, social and emotional aspects of learning (SSEAL) work that is present in all aspects of the curriculum
- Very well-behaved, motivated and contented pupils who relish being at this school

Focus for development

- Develop the RE curriculum and monitoring of RE to work effectively alongside the new integrated curriculum throughout the school
- Establish opportunities for pupils to evaluate school worship and contribute to development
- Develop a range of RE resources and artefacts on-site, taking advantage of additional storage space

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

The school is very successful in encouraging and challenging the pupils. They have confidence in expressing their views and understand the needs and concerns of others. Children speak of being cared for, valued and looked after well in this school. Positive relationships are evident amongst the staff and their interaction with the pupils. Children are encouraged to use the reflection space, created with the extension of the school, to place prayers, and the playtime 'buddies' scheme is understood and used by pupils who need a little peer support. There are clear guidelines for behaviour, and pupils know what is required of them and behave in a mature and respectful way towards others. Children with specific needs are supported well, and the very clear and widely used SSEAL themes, making 'Spiritual' an important aspect of learning, are evident across the curriculum as well as through worship. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is outstanding. Pupils know a great deal about the other cultures in the wider city where they live, and opportunities are given to learn about different lifestyles, nations and faiths. The lunchtime prayer club, run by a member of staff, gives children an added opportunity to pray for the needs of other

children, who have placed prayers in a box. This was very creatively run, and demonstrated a spiritual maturity as well as great sense of fun amongst the pupils who attended. The school has very strong links with the local community. The Community Room, a new addition to the building, is provided to be an additional meeting place for community groups and encourages interaction with the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is OUTSTANDING

The school is dedicated to the provision of high quality worship that enriches the life of the school as a worshipping community. There is a clear planning for worship and suitable resources are provided for both teachers and visitors to develop the weekly theme appropriately. The worship themes link clearly with the SSEAL programmes and the church seasons as required. Children have the opportunity to experience quiet reflection, stories, active involvement, prayer and songs. Pupils speak very highly of school worship, with comments such as 'I love assemblies – they really try to make them great!' All of the children are attentive and participate in a positive way, with pupil, class and staff involvement encouraged. Children welcome the input of visitors from local churches. The parish church offers particularly strong support through the incumbent and the youth worker leading worship in the school on a regular basis. The children are keen and enthusiastic singers, and can name a good number of their favourite songs and explain in mature language what those songs mean to them. They are able to remember worship and talk about what the worship experiences meant to them, and what impact it has on their lives.

The end of the week 'Bramcote Stars' act of worship sets the achievement of pupils in a worship context. In the observed worship the children were very attentive and supportive of their peers, enjoying sharing in the success of others.

The effectiveness of the religious education is OUTSTANDING

Pupils have every opportunity to gain knowledge about a range of faiths, and the standard of written work, discussion and displays are exceptionally high, demonstrating the effectiveness of the RE teaching. The current religious education curriculum developed in the school benefits from being drawn from a wide range of sources including the local SACRE, the diocese, and a wide range of resources. The subject manager is relatively new into this role, and will be working on a new RE curriculum to run alongside the revised whole school curriculum which is currently being developed. She has a clear vision for the teaching of RE, and is motivated to ensure that RE enhances the growth of the whole child, thus helping children learn from religion. RE is taught creatively and very well, and displays of RE work are of a very high standard. Teachers are willing to take risks, ask difficult questions that stretch their pupils, and leave pupils with thinking and reflection to do. In one lesson younger children were taken to the local church where the incumbent led an entertaining 'baptism. The children demonstrated a very good understanding of the importance and significance of baptism. In another lesson older pupils were taken through the story of the Exodus with excellent story-telling, creative drama and mature reflection, led by a dynamic teacher. In all RE lessons observed a high standard of discussion was evident, with pupils having a very high level of religious language and understanding. Children's progress in RE is assessed by the class teachers, and once the new curriculum is in place wider assessment will be required.

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

The current Headteacher, new in post since the previous inspection, articulates a clear Christian vision for the school, which demonstrates care, equality and spirituality. This is greatly enhanced by the largely Christian staff, many of whom have active lives of service and ministry in their own churches. The staff, leadership team and governors all share the vision and energy to see this school grow as a thriving Christian community, and regularly evaluate the school as an effective church school. The leaders clearly demonstrate their commitment to ensuring that the school makes consistent progress through accurate and astute self-evaluation, governor reports and forward planning. The governors are dedicated and hard-working, clearly valuing the staff and sharing the responsibility for the school's performance by careful monitoring and lesson and worship observations and involvement. Foundation governors work hard to ensure that the school continues to be an exceptional example of a Christian environment where all pupils thrive. Parents are very positive about the school and supportive of the Christian ethos. There are outstanding supportive links with the local churches, from which the school benefits greatly. Areas identified for development in the previous Section 48 inspection have been actively and thoroughly addressed and the potential for further positive growth is very good.