

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

The Redeemer Church of England Primary School

Jack Walker Way,
Fernhurst Farm,
Blackburn.
BB2 4JJ

Diocese: Blackburn

Local authority: Blackburn
Dates of inspection: 24th March 2009
Date of last inspection: 3rd May 2006
School's unique reference number: 133987
Headteacher: Mrs Alison Taylor
Inspector's name and number: Peter Jump 25

School context

The Redeemer is a newly built, larger than average school situated on a new housing development on the outskirts of Blackburn. The school has grown from a one-form entry school and, with the exception of Year 6, is now two-form entry. The school has a high pupil mobility level due to its increasing popularity with many pupils joining the school in various year groups. Pupil attainment on entry is just below average. The number of children receiving free-school meals is average whilst the number with special educational need is above average. The new building also is home to St Bartholomew's Church.

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

The distinctive Christian character of the school permeates all aspects of school life. Its Christian values are promoted very effectively and make a significant impact upon each child's development.

Established strengths

- The very strong links with St Bartholomew's Church
- The Christian character of the school reflected in the excellent behaviour of the children
- The clear Christian vision of the headteacher and governing body.

Focus for development

- To fully embed the new assessment system in religious education

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

The school is built on firm Christian principles and values and this has a very positive impact on each child's personal development. The children's social and moral development is outstanding due to the excellent relationships that exist within the school. Outstanding Christian care is reflected in the confidence that the children have in each adult. They feel safe and say that all staff are really supportive and solve problems quickly. The children respond very positively to the individual responsibility that is given to them. The effective reward systems in school are built upon Christ's commandment to love one another. This has a profound impact on the children's excellent behaviour and their moral and social development. Spiritual development is outstanding. There are many opportunities for prayer and reflection through collective worship, religious education, class prayers and prayer corners. The cultural development of each child is good due to the opportunities provided through the curriculum and the support that the school gives to various world charities. Parents, quite rightly, speak highly of the school, 'The school is an excellent environment for our children to learn and develop in', and, 'the school values my child as an individual.' Learners from all groups feel valued and special, they enjoy school and fulfil their potential.

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

Vital importance is placed on the act of worship that begins each day and this is a key element in the school's Christian witness. Worship is extremely well planned, monitored and evaluated by an enthusiastic and capable worship co-ordinator who has a clear understanding of her role. Worship is varied and is led by the headteacher, deputy headteacher, vicar, staff, children and visitors. Children fully participate in worship and are also involved in its monitoring. This has a very positive impact on their spiritual development. They enjoy worship and say, 'Joining in worship builds up our confidence.'

The act of worship seen on the day of the inspection had an excellent impact on each child's spiritual, moral and social development. The theme was 'humility' and focussed on Jesus the servant washing his disciples' feet. It was led by the headteacher and fully involved the children. A power point presentation was used as an aid and all the teachers and many assistants were present. The children entered and left the hall reverently. The singing was enthusiastic and time was given for personal reflection and thoughtful prayer.

Worship is recognisably Christian and effectively develops the children's understanding of the Anglican tradition. The school makes excellent use of its resources including the 'Garden of Reflection'. The vicar, who is also the chair of governors, is fully involved in school life. Parents are very supportive of the school services in church where they say, 'There is always a fabulous atmosphere.' The high quality collective worship has a crucial impact on the social, moral and spiritual development of each child.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding.

Religious education is seen by all key members of the school community as being crucially important in the life of the school. Through the vision and commitment of the headteacher, staff and governors and the capable leadership of the co-ordinator, excellent progress has been made since the previous inspection. Now there are assessment procedures in place including whole school assessment of children's work. This better informs teachers of each child's progress and enables targeting of future work. The curriculum fully complies with the Blackburn Diocesan Scheme of Work and reflects the school's Christian foundation whilst at the same time giving some weight to other faiths. Religious education is now a key component in enhancing each child's cultural development. Achievement in relation to the children's background and prior attainment is high and in line with other curricular subjects. By Year 6 most children have an excellent knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. The quality religious education makes a major contribution to the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of each child and is celebrated through display in the school on a regular basis. There is an extra-curricular 'Jesus And Me' club in the summer term.

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

The headteacher and governors have a very clear Christian vision for the school and are ably supported by the deputy headteacher, assistant headteacher and key staff. Together they are very effective in developing and promoting the outstanding Christian ethos and character of the school. The leadership of religious education and collective worship is also very effective and much progress has been made in a short time. The headteacher has created an excellent team spirit within the school and this has a significant impact on each child helping them to fulfil their potential and feel that they are part of a caring and supportive Christian community. The appointment of a church-school family worker has enhanced the Christian care and support provided and helps to encompass the whole school community. An active School Council gives pupils a voice in improving their school. The governing body excels at being a supportive, yet critical, friend and constantly seeks the challenge of continually improving its school. Key staff and governors regularly review the effectiveness of the school as a church school. The results of this can clearly be seen in the very effective leadership and management of the school as a church school. Children and their parents speak appreciatively about the commitment of the staff to all individuals and the quality of education provided.