

## **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**Monday 13 March 2006**

### **Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools/Section 48 Reports**

#### **1.0 Purpose of report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide SACRE with information following the statutory inspection of Anglican schools. The attached reports relate to:-

- (a) Blue Coat CE Infant School
- (b) Bloxwich CE Primary School

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 That SACRE note the contents of the reports and that Blue Coat CE Infant and Bloxwich CE Primary schools be congratulated on the outcome of the Inspections.

### **Legal and Constitutional Services**

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GE/GEH  
March 2006



Name and address of school: Blue Coat Church of England Infant School,  
Hanch Place, Walsall WS1 3AF

Status: Voluntary Aided

LEA: Walsall

Date of Inspection: January 2006

Date of last Inspection: January 2000

School's unique reference no: 335/3301

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Janet Davies

Chair of Governors: Miss Dorothy Buchanan

Inspector's name & NS no: Mr Alan Brown

### **Summary Judgement**

#### **Blue Coat Infant School is an outstanding Church of England school.**

There is a strong and vibrant Christian ethos underpinning all policies and their practical outcomes. The Governing Body and the leadership team have carefully thought through the most effective manner in which their Church school can serve a multi-faith, multi-cultural community. At the heart of the School lies the Gospel teaching of 'Love God with all your heart and love your neighbour as yourself'. The School has the total confidence of parents of all faiths. The Religious Education is exemplary being very well planned and resourced with some outstanding teaching.

### **Established strengths**

- The outstanding leadership of the Headteacher and the quality of support from the Governing Body;
- The Christian ethos of the School and the educational model of Christian service it demonstrates;
- The Christian outreach of the school into local, national and international communities;
- The enthusiasm of teachers and the quality of their teaching;
- The resources and the support for teaching Religious Education;
- The relationships within the School;
- The rich quality of display including a number of very good examples on aspects of Religious Education and of Christianity;

### **Focus for development**

- To maintain the confidence of parents and to continue to demonstrate the overt, welcoming Christian faith which underpins everything in the School;
- To continue to improve worship within the School encouraging pupils to play a greater part in planning through the effective School's Council;
- To share good practice with other schools and encourage staff to visit other similar schools.

### **The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding in meeting the needs of its learners**

The school's distinctive Christian character ensures outstanding provision is made to meet the educational and personal needs of all its learners and is a central feature of its relationship with the local communities. The Christian conviction of the senior management expressed in the day-to-day running of the school provides a practical application of the Christian faith. The pupils all speak highly of the school and the relationships with and between teachers. All those involved in this school, staff and pupils, are learners for they are all learning how to respond to changing situations by applying the core teachings of the Gospel.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Worship in Blue Coat School is outstanding through the excellent record keeping; the quality of planning and imaginative and inspiring acts of worship. Worship is Christian, lively and appropriate to the age range of the pupils. The school is sensitive, as it is in all other aspects, to the religious diversity of pupils and staff. The School Council ought to make a contribution to the planning of worship. There are excellent links with the church; clergy regularly lead worship and the pupils look forward to their visits.

### **Religious Education is outstanding**

Religious Education is well organised and well taught. Children work effectively responding to tasks with enthusiasm and enjoyment. The relationships in all classrooms are exemplary. Teaching is either outstanding or good. The highest standards are set and the work is challenging while still being enjoyable. The quality of learning and teaching are also exemplary largely as a result of the support offered by senior management and the outstanding work of the RE coordinator, particularly in the area of assessment. Her hard work allows non-specialist teachers to achieve very high standards of learning and teaching.

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

The Governing Body and the Headteacher work in close partnership. They have thought through with great care and perspicacity what it means to be a church school in this environment. Christian service lies at the heart of the School's theology and educational practice. The diversity of religious communities served by the School has enhanced and sharpened Blue Coat's vision of its Christian mission in contemporary society. Parents and learners speak warmly of the Christian values of the School being lived out daily. This is another outstanding feature of the School.



Name and address of school	BLOXWICH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Type of school (Infant, Primary, Middle, Secondary etc.)	Primary
Status (VA, VC or Foundation, CTC or Academy)	VC
Diocese	Lichfield
LEA	Staffordshire
Dates of inspection	January 31 <sup>st</sup> 2006
Date of last inspection	October 1999
School's Unique reference number	104221
Name of Headteacher	Mr. D. Rowe (Acting Head) Mr. M. Blunt (Headteacher)
Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number	MR C. JAMES (NATSOC 5)

Bloxwich CE Primary School is a large primary school situated on the North side of the Birmingham conurbation. It serves an area of well below average income and pockets of significant deprivation. It occupies a very cramped site next to a busy road. The school has no playing fields or gardens although there is a community park adjacent.

The school is currently led by an acting Headteacher whilst the Head is seconded.

**Bloxwich is a good school with outstanding features.**

### **Established strengths**

The strengths of the school are:

- the caring atmosphere generated by the workforce
- the outstanding example set by the Acting Headteacher, Headteacher and the entire leadership team
- the positive learning attitude of all pupils

### **Focus for Development**

Foci for further development:

- Enhance the audiovisual facilities in the hall to improve whole school worship
- Develop overt Christian signs and symbols on the exterior of the buildings
- Exploit the Victorian schoolrooms by adding additional features such as a stained glass window, spotlights or uplighters on the decorative roof beams.

**How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?**

All members of this school community are valued and feel special. The school's Christian values impact on learners in an outstanding way enabling them to flourish as individuals to whatever level they are able to achieve. The school's Christian distinctiveness is good and supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners. The Christian values evident in the various relationships within the school are good. The school site is restricted and possibilities for development are limited but some of the potential has been exploited and there are some good murals and wall displays. There is a spirituality table or corner in each classroom. These are all different and show good imagination and variation through their contents which reflects the age and understanding of the pupils concerned. The Victorian architecture consists of high windows and intricate wooden roof beams which give the classrooms a 'church-like' appearance. These could be further enhanced when redecoration is possible. Additional symbols – especially outside the building, are desirable.

**What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?**

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good at both Key stage 1 and 2. The importance of worship in the life of the school is outstanding. This is demonstrated by the obvious and outstanding response from the pupils and adults alike. Worship is enjoyed by all participants and is a good example of the Anglican faith in practice. Opportunities are given for personal reflection on a daily basis. Other faiths are included as contrast where and when this is relevant. Learners and staff of all faiths can derive good inspiration, spiritual growth and affirmation from such worship. There are good links with the Parish Church. The Vicar and the foundation governors are used on a weekly basis as part of the worship programme. The church itself is used for celebrating major festivals.

**How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?**

The Acting Headteacher, Headteacher, Worship co-ordinator and foundation governors provide an outstanding example of promoting a distinctive Christian vision for their school. The SMT are good at encouraging others with help from the clergy and Diocese. It is evident that the whole staff feels good about, and is involved in, putting this vision into practice. Not all stakeholders (i.e. some learners and their parents) are devout so work to encourage their participation is ongoing. A vehicle to investigate this is to be developed which is commendable.