



**Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools**  
**Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2006**

# **DIOCESE OF LEICESTER**

LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY

St Michael & All Angels CE (Aided) Primary School  
Brookside  
Rearsby  
Leics  
LE7 4YB

**Inspection Date: 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**Section 48 Inspector: Mrs Marian Driver (No: 116)**



## SIAS Report Form

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| <b>Name and address of school:</b>   | St Michael & All Angels CE Primary School<br>Brookside<br>Rearsby<br>Leics.<br>LE7 4YB |
| <b>Type of school</b>  | Primary  |
| <b>Status:</b>   | Voluntary Aided  |
| <b>Diocese:</b>  | Leicester  |
| <b>Local Authority:</b>  | Leicestershire   |
| <b>Date of inspection:</b>   | 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2008                                      |
| <b>Date of last inspection:</b>  | 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2006                                       |
| <b>School's Unique Ref. No:</b>  | 120197   |
| <b>Name of Head teacher;</b>   | Mrs Gail Forryan   |
| <b>Inspector's name (with N.S. No):</b>  | Mrs Marian Driver (No. 116)  |
| <b>Context</b>   |  |
| St Michael & All Angels CE Primary school is situated close to the church in the rural village of Rearsby. There are 103 pupils on roll. Nearly all the pupils are of white British heritage. The school has an excellent reputation in the area and many parents living out of catchment, choose to send their children to this school. |  |
| <b>Summary Judgment</b>  |  |
| <b>The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Michael and All Angels CE Primary School as a Church of England school is outstanding.</b>  |  |
| Outstanding leadership by the headteacher, staff and governors results in an effective church of England school which is proud of its Christian status. Relationships within the school and between the school and parish are firmly rooted in Christian values.   |  |
| <b>Established strengths</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outstanding Christian leadership of headteacher</li><li>• Dedicated staff team working together to provide Christian community</li><li>• Responsive and motivated pupils</li><li>• Strong community links</li></ul>  |  |
| <b>Focus for development</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide opportunities for RE co-ordinator to observe RE lessons</li><li>• Arrange more visits to different places of worship</li><li>• Encourage more regular monitoring of Christian ethos by foundation governors</li></ul>  |  |

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

Christian values are embedded in the school's approach towards its care and concern for all members of the school community. Learners have regular opportunities to talk about themselves and others and consider their own special gifts. The school's drive to recognize that 'everyone is slightly different but everyone is special' leads to confident, respectful members. Pupils work towards their own classroom reward systems and whole school recognition during the 'Special Mentions assembly'. The effective school council is involved in many aspects of school life, contributing ideas for improvement and is enabled to make decisions about spending. Parents describe the school as one big family, older pupils playing and caring for each other. 'They are taught how to behave and be happy in the Christian faith'. This is shown in the excellent pupils' behaviour, their enthusiasm for learning and their respect for other people. Friendship is clearly evident amongst relationships and younger pupils have an understanding of Christian values such as love, kindness, honesty, courage and sharing. Christian and RE displays in each classroom and in many areas of the school corridors and hall encourage pupils to think about different questions in life and encourage spiritual growth. The school provides curriculum enrichment in a variety of ways including many clubs and activities. The school supports local and international charities, most recently 'Operation Christmas child'.

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

Collective Worship is a special time for pupils and staff and is a very important part of school life. Acts of Worship are well planned imaginatively using the suggested diocesan themes. Pupils are involved in presenting the visual display and organizing the music. The use of a white board and visualiser in the hall provides colourful images. The worship table with a lighted candle provides the focal point and the attentive pupils respond well to the reflection time. Liturgical colours are used on the table cloths so that pupils learn about and experience the Anglican tradition. During prayer time they are quiet and thoughtful. One child said, 'in quiet moments I use it to get my thoughts in order'. At times pupils contribute with music and drama. They enjoy answering questions, taking part in quizzes, singing and helping. They like to hear bible stories and particularly enjoy the newly introduced 'Open the Book' worship time. Pupils feel that bible stories teach them "what God can do and how we can be good." Pupils say grace before meals and know the Lord's prayer. They are involved in their own classes with their personal prayers for self and for peers and family. A prayer diary in the Y5/6 classroom is used regularly by pupils. Prayers for the week are written on post its, form part of the prayers for that week and are then stored in the prayer diary. Members of the local churches make regular contributions to school worship. Parents are invited to class assemblies. Worship is significant to pupil's spiritual and moral development. Worship is monitored by staff and governors.

**The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding.**

Learning and teaching are creatively planned using a variety of teaching methods so that pupils find the lessons fun and interesting. Pupils feel it is a subject in which they can express their opinions without fear of being judged. The exciting RE teaching and the interactive RE displays in the classrooms and the informative displays in school contribute to the development of the spiritual and moral dimension. From two lessons observed, learners experience good teaching of Christianity, have sound knowledge and are able to relate this to everyday issues. A young child, when talking about gifts said, 'If I give something away I will be happy and they will be happy.' Assessment of units covered in RE last year show that the majority of pupils made average or above average progress. Pupils recognize that there are few religions represented in their school but feel it is important to learn about other religions so that they can respect a different way of life. In both citizenship and RE they have acquired good knowledge about many faiths but would like to make more visits to places of worship. Younger pupils have benefited from the practical Diwali workshop led by visitors to the school and remember the activities that enrich their understanding. The RE co-ordinator is enthusiastic and has been informed by the training and conferences offered by the Diocese. She is keen to widen the visits to places of worship and visitors of other faiths to the school. The RE co-ordinator's monitoring would be improved by observing RE lessons in school.

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

The headteacher as a spiritual and academic leader, provides a strong Christian example and leads staff, governors, parents and pupils with enthusiasm and determination. As a result, the headteacher and foundation governors promote a distinctive Christian vision for the school where the pupils are at the centre and feel safe and valued. The school has accurately evaluated the provision and has a clear vision. Foundation governors are fully involved in the life of the school. More regular monitoring visits will inform others of the continual strong ethos of the school. The staff feel well supported by the leadership and work together as a strong team to create a Christian community ensuring that Christian values permeate the whole life of the school. There are strong links between the church and the school; parents are regularly informed by newsletters of school/church events. They are consulted on school issues. They are well aware of the school's Christian dimension and as a result of this, say that pupils talk and ask questions at home. There is a strong parents' association who work hard to improve resources for the school. There are close links with the church and the diocese. Church workers have offered Christian festival workshops where pupils develop themes using a creative approach. Pupil's excellent behaviour, their self discipline and also their knowledge of bible stories and Christian knowledge is evident at these times.