



Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools
Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

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LEICESTERSHIRE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

St Mary's Church of England Primary School

**Brampton Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 0NA**

Inspection Dates: 23rd September 2009

Section 48 Inspector: Paul Stone



SIAS Report Form

Name and address of school:	St Mary's Church of England Primary School Brampton Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 0NA
Type of school	Primary
Status:	Controlled
Diocese:	Leicester
LA:	Leicestershire
Dates of inspection:	23 rd September 2009
Date of last inspection:	2005
School's Unique Ref. No:	120147
Name of Head teacher;	Sharon Deakes
Inspector's name (with N.S. No):	Paul Stone

Context
<p>This average sized school is situated in the outskirts of Melton Mowbray, a medium size market town, and draws its children from a large area, many of whom travel from outside the catchment area. The overall figure of children with special educational needs is close to the national average and attainment between cohorts varies. Most children are from a white British background. The school has received several awards for excellence and achievement in sport, art and music, and for being a Healthy School. The incumbent is newly appointed.</p>

Summary Judgment
The distinctiveness and effectiveness of this school as a Church of England school is good.
<p>Christian beliefs and values are central to the life of the school; through the effective leadership of the head teacher a strong community has been created. Children and adults feel part of this process and enjoy exploring aspects of their faith. Each feels valued and respected. Christianity is celebrated by all children through the importance of prayer and collective worship. As a result, learners' attitudes, behaviour and personal development are good. There is a strong partnership between the school and the parish church and the leadership of the school places a high emphasis on to the spiritual development of children and adults in the school.</p>

Established strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school's Christian ethos is embedded in all areas of life in the school community• Effectiveness in promoting pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development• Well behaved, confident, articulate pupils who enjoy being at school• The outstanding and highly productive partnership with the parish church.

Focus for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop the role of the leadership team and governors to support the school in its self evaluation of its Christian character• Develop a robust systems to evaluate the impact of collective worship on the development of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education• Increase the opportunities for children to lead collective worship within the school.

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

St. Mary's has a warm, welcoming Christian atmosphere, where everyone feels part of a close and supportive community with Christian values supporting its ethos. Children's needs are at the heart of all initiatives at the school and effective relationships have been built with all stakeholders to ensure that all children achieve the best possible outcomes. Parents and Governors feel they are in close partnership with the head teacher to celebrate the school's distinctive character and to develop the school's unique Christian character. The head teacher, in the year she has been at the school, has developed the school's character and has placed the Christian beliefs firmly at the heart of school development. Parents are regularly welcomed into school, enabling them to communicate with staff, and to feel part of their children's education. One parent said that, "The school community doesn't stop at the end of the day, it is a true family." Behaviour is exemplary, and pupils are caring and confident, both in their relationships with each other, and with staff. A buddy system is set up to support children at playtimes; older children relish these opportunities and provide effective support for younger children. Each class has their own garden area where they grow flowers and vegetables. This gives opportunities for reflection and practical uses of their efforts which the children can be very proud of. There are effective reward systems which inspire children to learn and provide opportunities for children to celebrate their successes. They are particularly proud of the work they do to raise money for a wide range of local and national charities. Children at St Mary's believe it is an excellent school because "if you tell the teacher's your problems they do things about it and allow us to change things."

The impact of collective worship on the school is good.

Collective worship plays a central role in the life of the school and supports the school in the development of its Christian character. The school is committed to the provision of high quality collective worship, which is based on diocesan themes. These are well planned and organised to support the whole curriculum engaging pupils in a variety of ways. Evaluation of the collective worship is in its early stages and opportunities for children to lead collective worship are beginning to emerge. The formalisation of evaluations will strengthen the review process and assist in the assessment of the impact of worship and result in further improvements in style and quality to enhance the already good provision. The children said, "Assemblies are much more interesting and we get involved now." Their favourite assembly of the week is when they have visitors because "They always have something really interesting to say that makes us think." The collective worship observed was of a very high standard, with all children and adults engaged. It gave a clear message in an interesting way showing the excellent relationship the local Vicar had formed with the school. Pupils know the Lord's Prayer and can explain how prayer can help themselves and other people especially in times of need. Collective worship makes an important contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The children have a good understanding of Anglican traditions through the very effective partnership with the Church Community.

The leadership and management of the school, as a church school is good.

The school is particularly distinctive as a church school owing to the vision and untiring drive of the head teacher. The head teacher has created a welcoming community that demonstrates Christian beliefs in all aspects of school life. She has created a true partnership with stakeholders who feel part of developing the school. Governors are supportive, well aware of the school's status and actively promote it. The partnership between the school and the wider church community is outstanding and this partnership develops a very strong Christian ethos which provides very effective spiritual, moral, social and cultural opportunities for children. The vision of the leadership team is communicated very clearly through all policies, school website and the school aims which are rooted in Christian values. Systems for self evaluation are developing under the new leadership team and governors are beginning to develop their role in this process. This needs further development to ensure governors are able to act as the critical friends and support the leadership team in their development of the school. The school has close links with the diocese and benefits from training courses. The professionalism of the head teacher in embracing this new challenge and looking to the future ensures that the school has an excellent capacity to improve further.