



The National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools
(Carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005)

St Botolph's Church of England Primary School

Inspection Report

Address of School:	Loughborough Road Shepshed Leicestershire LE12 9DN
Telephone Number:	01509 503387
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School Category:	Voluntary Controlled
Unique Reference Number:	120159
Type of School:	Primary
Diocese:	Leicester
Local Authority:	Leicestershire
Inspection Date:	28 th March and 4 th April 2011
Reporting Inspector (and No):	Mrs Gail Forryan (211)
Appropriate Authority:	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors:	Mrs Sam Francis
Headteacher:	Mrs Emma Pepper
Pupils on school roll:	208

St Botolph's CE Primary School

Loughborough Road
Shepshed
Leicestershire
LE12 9DN

Diocese: Leicester

Local authority: Leicestershire
Dates of inspection: 28th March and 4th April 2011
Date of last inspection: 20th February 2008
School's unique reference number: 120159
Headteacher: Mrs Emma Pepper
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Gail Forryan (211)

School context

The school is average in size for a primary school. Almost all children are from White British backgrounds. The proportion of children identified as having special educational needs and/or disability is average but there are a small number of children with particularly complex needs. Children transfer to the local high school at the end of Year 5. The headteacher is in her second year of headship supported by two assistant headteachers. In 2009 the school underwent extensive internal refurbishment, new building works and disability access improvements.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Botolph's as a Church of England school are good

St Botolph's is a good school which is committed to its Christian foundation. The Christian ethos of the school is evident in the way children conduct themselves around the school, particularly within their respectful and polite behaviour. Relationships across the school are strong and there are good links with local churches, clergy and the community.

Established strengths

- Strong commitment to Christian values that permeate the school's mission and practice.
- Good leadership by the headteacher supported by hard working staff and governors.
- Very good relationships within a family ethos producing outstanding behaviour and mature learners.
- Good links and relationships with local churches, clergy and the community.

Focus for development

- Give more opportunities for children to lead significant areas of worship.
- Establish areas for reflection and prayer through quiet corners in classrooms.
- Work with the governing body in monitoring and evaluating the school as a distinctive Church of England school.

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

The school has a caring Christian ethos where children are able to experience Christian values such as friendliness and responsibility and learn about Christianity and the similarities and differences of other faiths. During a recent successful Faith Week, children visited the Jain Centre, Buddhist Temple, Gudwara and Leicester Cathedral with the school identifying other places of worship to visit in the future. The children enjoyed this themed week with a parent saying, "Shepshed is not culturally diverse, so it is important that the children are introduced to other ways of life and beliefs." School documentation is very clear in promoting its Christian foundation especially through its motto 'Progress Through Partnership'. The school and eco councils demonstrate good opportunities for children to take on responsibility

within the school community and help prepare them for continuing education and adult life. The children show a high degree of service towards the wider world through charitable support, such as donating harvest gifts to the elderly and sponsoring a child's education in Africa. Pupils say they are treated with respect by all members of the wider staff team and they know who they can turn to when it is needed. The school's strength lies in the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of the children. The good displays around the school depict its Christian ethos, for example, 'One World', 'Who is my neighbour?' and artwork of the local church. Spiritual development is enhanced through giving children opportunities for quiet reflection in an indoor lounge and outdoor areas including a willow tunnel and a nature's paradise. The school is developing quiet areas in each classroom to strengthen personal prayer and enable time for peaceful reflection.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Daily worship forms an integral part of school life and acts of worship are well prepared and thoughtfully presented. The hall is the worship area which is centrally situated with displays and information boards proclaiming the Christian identity of the school. The content of worship helps children to focus on Christian values and this impacts positively on respectful behaviour and manners around school. There is a cross, Bible and candle to provide focus for worship and appropriate music is played while pupils enter and leave. The children's singing is wonderful and they clearly enjoy the experience of worship. One child commented, "I like the action songs and learning about Jesus." Assemblies observed during the inspection celebrated Jesus as the 'Light of the World' and the introduction of the Easter story. In the first assembly observed, the older children were fully engaged with the visual examples of light and good links were made with Bible texts. The younger children's assembly effectively used puppets to show the importance of the candle's light and the significance to Christians and their beliefs. The whole school assembly made outstanding use of a story map to outline the amazing events that make Easter a special time for Christians. The enthusiasm of children and staff participation in the actions and sound effects brought the story to life. In all acts of worship the children were given opportunities to reflect on the messages given and to join in with the prayers. There are very good links with local churches, clergy and parishioners which the school appreciates and values. Their support adds to the spiritual dimension in school life. Services are held regularly in the local church where children participate and lead alongside the clergy. Pupils are actively involved in the life of the parish through displaying prayers and artwork in the church and writing for the parish magazine. Parents welcome being invited to church celebrations, the achievements assemblies and class acts of worship. The children are introduced to a range of cultural traditions and although they are secure in the symbols, stories and characters of Christianity, they are less so in other faiths. Overall, worship makes an excellent contribution to the SMSC development of the children.

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

Leadership and management by the headteacher, senior management team and governing body provide a clear vision for school development. All are committed to a high quality provision for the children. Self evaluation procedures are secure in identifying strengths and areas for development. For example, plans have been identified to increase the capacity of the governing body to challenge the school to account for itself as a Church of England school. A team of highly committed staff ably supports the effective headteacher. Comprehensive monitoring and evaluation by the headteacher, co-ordinators and children ensures that SMSC education is high on the school's agenda. High quality relationships exist at all levels throughout the school and children and staff talk about how they feel secure and valued as individuals. Parents feel they are fully involved in the life of the school and speak highly about their children's happiness and how they are encouraged to take on responsibility. As one parent commented, "I only have praise for this school. I feel privileged that my children go to such a caring school." Parents are consulted about their views by means of questionnaires and the SAY (School and You) Group. They feel that their responses and suggestions are listened to and acted upon. Fundraising by the friends of the school has supported many extra amenities and resources, such as adventure trails, an outdoor classroom and gardening projects. The whole school community are rightly proud of their school.

