



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

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LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Belton CE (controlled) Primary School
Sadlers Wells
Belton
Loughborough
Leics
LE12 9TS

Inspection Date: 12th February 2009

Section 48 Inspector: Mrs Wendy Martin (No: 168)



SIAS Report Form

Name and address of school:	Belton CE Primary School Sadlers Wells Belton, Loughborough Leics. LE12 9TS
Type of school	Primary
Status:	Voluntary Controlled
Diocese:	Leicester
Local Authority:	Leicestershire
Dates of inspection:	12 th February 2009
Date of last inspection:	2 nd & 3 rd March 2006
School's Unique Ref. No:	120144
Name of Head teacher;	Mr R. McDermott
Inspector's name (with N.S. No.)	Mrs Wendy Martin (No. 168)

Context

Belton Church of England Primary School is a small rural school with 70 pupils on roll. A number of pupils are from outside the catchment area. Children are taught in three classes, and move to high school at the end of Year 5. The building and grounds are well cared for, and an adventure playground and library extension have been added recently.

Summary Judgment

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Belton CE Primary as a Church of England school are good.

The school is strongly committed to its Christian foundation. It has effective links with the parish church, and is an integral part of the village community. It has a caring Christian ethos in which each individual is made to feel valued and special.

Established strengths

- The headteacher has a clear vision for the school, with high expectations of learners.
- Provision for learners spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent.
- All pupils are valued, and feel safe and secure.
- A strong Christian ethos permeates all areas of school life.

Focus for development

- Ensure that all documentation reflects the clearly evident Christian ethos of the school.
- Ensure that Collective Worship and R.E. have a high profile in the School Improvement Plan, alongside core subjects.

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

Belton school has a warm, welcoming atmosphere, in which pupils and adults clearly feel valued both as individuals, and as part of a team. Christian values are modelled by school adults, and pupils respond well to their high expectations. Staff know their children very well, and parents are happy that any problems will be dealt with quickly and effectively. They say that pupils are encouraged to look after each other, and readily nominate others for achievement awards. Both pupils and their parents are enthusiastic about the strong links with the parish church of St John the Baptist. Pupils take part in village events, such as dancing at the Maypole Festival, and providing reports for the village magazine. Supporting a wide range of local and international charities gives them an insight into the lives of those less fortunate, and the school's link with a school in Kenya provides an understanding of life for children in developing countries. Pupils recently designed parachutes for a "Belton Bears" activity, where they worked alongside village organisations to raise money for the parish church. The school places importance on healthy lifestyles and in caring for the environment currently awaiting final accreditation for a Healthy Schools Award, and having recently gained a recycling award. School councillors are confident about their role, speaking enthusiastically about the benefits of a gazebo and amphitheatre, which they helped to design, to be erected next term. The Lord's Prayer, a tapestry of The Last Supper, and booklets of graces, written by the children, are on display, serving to underline the school's Christian ethos.

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

Worship is an integral part of school life, following a programme of themes which reflect the Christian calendar, and making a strong contribution to pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. A candle and Bible provide a focus for worship. Pupils are invited to contribute, and periods of stillness encourage quiet reflection. The vicar's weekly act of worship is eagerly anticipated by pupils. Each month a service is held in the parish church, with worship planned and led by each class in turn, following the theme for the week. Parents and the village community value the opportunity to attend. A parent spoke of the impact of worship on her children, saying that they talk readily about Jesus, and sing religious songs learned in school. Another said that staff and the vicar make worship interesting and exciting for pupils. Years 4 and 5 attend events celebrating a "Last Supper" and a "Trip to Bethlehem" in nearby Baptist and Methodist churches, providing a thought provoking insight into life in biblical times. A range of visitors are invited to lead worship, and pupils appreciate the weekly achievement assemblies, where their successes are celebrated. Graces, written and read by pupils, are used before lunch each day. Monitoring and evaluation of worship by staff and governors takes place regularly, with plans to involve pupils.

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

The headteacher, with support from staff and governors, provides strong leadership. Staff and governors are making good progress in evaluating the school as an Anglican school, using the self evaluation toolkit. This now needs to be related to the school improvement plan. The school is aware that documentation does not yet consistently reflect the Christian character of the school. The foundation governor works closely with the school, providing useful monitoring reports for the governing body. She is keen to access training for her role. Staff encourage pupils to set their own personal boundaries, related to Christian values, resulting in exemplary relationships and behaviour throughout the school. Parents are consulted regularly, and their views respected. An after school club for younger pupils was formed as a result of this consultation.