

**Name and address of school**

Bawdsey CEVCP School
School Lane
Bawdsey
Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP12 3AR

Type of school

Primary

Status

Voluntary Controlled

Diocese

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

LEA

Suffolk

Date of inspection

10 July 2006

Date of last inspection

Spring 2000

School's unique reference number

124719

Name of Headteacher

Mr Stephen Green

Name of Inspector

Simon Windmill

NS number

182

Context

Bawdsey Primary is a small rural school serving the village of Bawdsey. There are 72 pupils, about half being from outside the catchment area. Most pupils are from white British backgrounds. Major building work to enlarge the school is nearing completion.

Summary Judgement

Bawdsey school's effectiveness and distinctiveness as a church school is good, with some outstanding features.

Established strengths

- The school's Christian ethos and values are reflected in the excellent relationships and levels of care throughout the school
- Staff are very highly valued, and work exceptionally well together as a team
- Worship is valued by all, and is seen as a very important part of school life
- Links with the church and wider community are good

Focus for development

- Increase the level and range of pupils' involvement in Collective Worship
- Complete the development of quiet areas for reflection and study
- Widen the provision of multicultural education

How well does the school's Christian character meet the needs of all pupils?

The school's warm, welcoming and friendly Christian character meets the needs of all pupils well. This is reflected in the way that pupils feel exceptionally well valued and known as individuals by all members of staff. The strong Christian ethos is seen by staff as the foundation of the outstanding relationships between all adults and children in the school. Pupils are very well cared for by staff, who are very good role models for pupils. Pupils in turn look after each very well. The buddy system is highly valued by pupils, and contributes effectively to their good behaviour. They know the rules, understand the reasons for having them, and are aware of the consequences if rules are broken. Through the school council, pupils are able to make an effective contribution to the running of the school. They feel that the staff take pupil's suggestions seriously, and act on them whenever possible. Council members understand that sometimes their suggestions cannot be taken up, and appreciate and accept the reasons behind such decisions. Pupils' personal development is well catered for. Current building work will give pupils space for quiet reflection and to encourage spiritual development, and pupils' understanding of different cultures has been identified as a priority for development.

What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good. Worship is regarded as a very important part of school life by pupils and staff. It is soundly based on Christian principles and teaching. It follows a well planned cycle of worship themes, which include the main festivals of the church year. Records of daily worship are kept, and once a term worship is evaluated through observation. Worship is mainly led by staff members, and the Rector leads worship occasionally. Each class organises an act of worship once a term. The Headteacher would like to increase the number of worship leaders from the local church community. The parish church is used for special services, such as Christmas, harvest and a Leavers' service. Worship is held in the school hall, where a large cross provides a focus, along with a wall display which reflects the Anglican church calendar, and an RE display. The atmosphere is good - music is played at the beginning and end of worship, and pupils listen quietly. Worship always includes singing, teaching and prayer or reflection. Pupils know the Lords Prayer and the Grace, and these prayers are sometimes used in worship or at other times of the day. Children have a good understanding of the purposes and styles of prayer. A survey of pupil's views on worship showed that pupils would like more involvement in worship. Pupils spoken to confirmed this – they would like more drama, more opportunities to organise and lead worship, and opportunities to use their own prayers in worship.

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

Leadership and management are good, with some outstanding features. The team spirit within the staff is exceptionally good – a survey of staff showed that under the Headteacher's leadership, management is based on openness, approachability and collaboration. Staff feel fully involved in the development of their school, and share the leadership's commitment to this. The Headteacher and Governors give effective support to the school in promoting its Christian vision, aims and values. The school is highly regarded by parents and the wider community, and the leadership team is strongly committed to ensuring that all pupils have a growing awareness of their own development as individuals and as members of a community. This is seen in the way that pupils respond to the needs of others within and beyond their school community, for example through their generous support of charities.