



**Baslow St Anne's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

School Lane,  
Baslow,  
Derbyshire, DE45 1RZ

**Diocese: Derby**

Local Authority: Derbyshire  
Dates of inspection: 1st April 2009  
Date of last inspection: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006  
School's Unique reference number 112800  
Headteacher Mrs. Jane Palmer-Coole  
Inspector's name and number: Mr David Gordon 309

**School context**

St Anne's is a smaller than average primary school that serves the community of Baslow and the surrounding areas, more than half the children attending the school come from out of the area. There has been a recent history of significant staffing change, including headteachers, the current headteacher having only been in post since April 2008. The proportion of children with learning difficulties and disabilities is lower than many schools. The school holds The Artsmark, The Basic Skills Quality Mark, Healthy Schools Status, ECO Bronze Award and the Activemark.

**The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Anne's as a Church of England (Controlled) Primary School is outstanding**

This school is an outstanding church school with a Christ-centred ethos underpinning every aspect of school life. Working in close partnership with the local church and community it is committed to the development and education of the whole child. High quality acts of worship set the tone for the school day. Despite a recent history of change within the school the headteacher has a clear grasp of where the school is and where it needs to go to continue its journey of development.

**Established strengths**

- Christian values, taught and demonstrated, impact on relationships and behaviour, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and love
- Strong leadership and committed teamwork combine effectively to move the school forward and enable learners to continue to flourish
- Meaningful links with local church and community contribute towards the school's high reputation well beyond the village.

**Focus for development**

- The Headteacher and Governors need to review the schools standing as a Church School and record their findings in the Toolkit provided by The National Society.
- Celebrate the school's Christian foundation by adding a distinctive and significant display in the entrance area.
- To explore the traditions, ceremony and services of the Anglican Church in support of the school's Anglican Foundation.

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

The strong Christian ethos and secure, nurturing environment ensures that all learners, including those with special needs, are cared for as individuals. They in turn show respect and consideration to each other and to adults. Achievement is celebrated and learners feel affirmed and justly proud of their successes. Families appreciate the care and love that they are shown. High priority is given to spiritual, moral and cultural development and every effort is taken to widen the horizons of learners in their appreciation of other cultures and faiths, this is particularly noticeable in the school's commitment to encouraging the children to be aware of the world and the events taking place in it and the work of different people and groups that affect the lives of others. The school operates an innovative system for rewarding children encouraging them to become valuable members of the school and local community.

### **Collective Worship makes an outstanding contribution on the school community**

Learners value collective worship and express their appreciation of the opportunities they are given "to learn about God and to pray," both in school and in church. Exceptional care is taken to create "sacred space" with a thought-provoking focus, making excellent use of the interactive white-board. Opening responses from the Anglican tradition lead into worship and learners respond by participating enthusiastically and thoughtfully. Worship is consistently well planned and delivered, regularly child-led and makes good use of visitors from the parish church and from further a field. The whole school community values and enjoys their contribution; the children enjoy the ability to take part in worship, enjoying singing, the stories and understanding the messages contained within them. They feel happy with being able to pray about issues that concern them and that they can take an active part in all aspects of worship. Collective worship is held in the church on special occasions and active involvement in Sunday worship is encouraged, forging a mutually enriching partnership between church and school.

### **The leadership and management of the school as a church school are outstanding**

The quality of leadership in the school is exceptional and demonstrates a Christ-centred approach which is reflected in every area of school life. The headteacher and staff work as a close team. Governors are very supportive yet not afraid to question and challenge. The governing body are aware of the National Society's Toolkit for evaluating the school but haven't fully implemented it as part of the cycle of review. Communication between school, church and community is effective, ensuring meaningful and mutually beneficial co-operation, these links are maintained by regular reports being shared with the Parish and through an informative and useful website. The Vicar and other church members praise the school's commitment to the promotion of Christian values and mission. The opinions of learners and their families are actively sought and acted upon wherever possible; they express their confidence in decision-making at school and feel valued as partners in that process, all those spoken to commented on the school's Christian foundation and ethos and how this was evident in all aspects of the school's life. The limited use of Christian artefacts and symbols in the public areas does not allow the school to demonstrate its outstanding Christian ethos to the fullest extent.