

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Bishop Hooper Church of England Foundation Primary School**

Caynham  
Ludlow  
Shropshire  
SY83BJ

#### **Diocese: Hereford**

Local authority: Shropshire  
Dates of inspection: July 19<sup>th</sup> 2011  
Date of last inspection: N/A. New School  
School's unique reference number: 135790  
Headteacher: Kerri Phelps  
Inspector's name and number: Brian Allaway 397

#### **School context**

This village school, with 70 pupils on roll, was established in 2009 following the closure of two very small schools. The school is currently housed in very cramped classrooms but moves into new purpose built accommodation in October 2011. Pupils come from the villages of Caynham, Ashford Carbonnel, and surrounding areas. The school has achieved Healthy School status and has gained the Eco School Green Flag award. A new headteacher and governing body were appointed when the new school opened.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bishop Hooper as a Church of England school are outstanding**

This school is a welcoming and hard working community underpinned by a strong Christian vision which is made explicit through the school's prospectus and mission statement. Relationships are very good at all levels. The school is well supported by governors and the parish priest. The school's Christian ethos is made tangible in pupils' work and displays, in prayer corners and in the positive attitude and excellent behaviour of the children.

#### **Established strengths**

- Committed and imaginative leadership of the headteacher
- Strong and productive team work from all staff
- Well behaved, well motivated children
- Excellent support and guidance from the parish priest
- Supportive and productive relationships with parents

#### **Focus for development**

- Involve governors, staff, parents and pupils in aspects of school self review using the latest guidance from the National Society of the Church of England
- Provide occasional opportunities for the children to lead worship

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

This is a successful school because the pupils make good academic and personal progress and their behaviour is excellent. There is consistency in the high expectations staff have of pupils. Fairness and forgiveness are qualities evident in the relationship between staff and pupils. The children are positive about school life and demonstrate a sense of responsibility for those less fortunate than themselves. Their commitment to a range of charitable fund raising activities is impressive. The older children have a strong sense of what it means to belong to a church school and one pupil explained this as, '*Trying to do some of the things that Jesus wants us to do*'. Pupils are proud of their achievements especially the 'Eco School' and 'Healthy School' awards. They appreciate the opportunities they have to work with other

schools in sporting activities and in joint educational visits. Staff capitalise on opportunities for spiritual development and through mature and respectful relationships pupils are confident to talk about their own ideas and opinions. The Prayer Corner provides pupils with opportunities to display their prayers or to place private prayers in a box. There are positive links with the local churches through the good work of the parish priest. The pupils appreciate the tangible symbols around the school that remind them that this is a church school and they look forward enthusiastically to participating in the planning for the new school.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**

Collective worship has a prominent place in the life and work of the school. This is underpinned by a helpful policy which ensures that status is attributed to worship and that pupils are provided with a range of relevant experiences. Pupils appreciate the opportunities they have to worship as a whole school and also in the intimate atmosphere of their own classrooms. Worship follows a planned series of themes and pupils experience bible stories, Christian festivals and worship based on secular stories and current and world events. They also enjoy celebrating the achievements of their peers. Pupils talk with enthusiasm about worship led by a variety of adults and particularly recall the worship led by Father Richard and the opportunity they had to experience Eucharistic worship. The school has canvassed pupils' views of worship and has found that pupils enjoy participating in worship especially when they can ask questions and offer opinions. The school takes care to provide a focus for pupils and adults by using music, candles and song to create a special atmosphere. Prayer is an important aspect of worship and pupils confidently use prayer in worship and at other times of the school day. The children enjoy participating and taking responsibility and have the ability to take on more responsibility by occasionally leading worship. Pupils enjoy the times when they worship in the local churches at the major festivals. Children, staff and parents wait with eager anticipation for the move to the new building and its spacious accommodation..

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is good**

Religious education has a secure place in the curriculum and pupils show a developing understanding of the life and teaching of Jesus as they move through the school. They are also introduced to some of the beliefs and celebrations of other major world faiths. Following a visit to a Sikh Gurdwara in Bristol the older pupils demonstrated a mature and detailed understanding of some of the history, beliefs and traditions of Sikhism and naturally made comparisons between the teaching of the Gurus and the teaching of Jesus. Pupils have many opportunities to express their own thoughts and ideas. This was demonstrated well when the youngest children were making their own books about 'The Church' and recalled their own experiences of church, also when Year 3/4 pupils were considering the meaning and relevance of the Ten Commandments. The quality of teaching observed during the inspection was good with some outstanding features. Teachers have good subject knowledge, plan imaginative activities and use questions well to check children's understanding.

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

The headteacher demonstrates total commitment and enthusiasm for the welfare and education of the children and staff. She provides a strong Christian lead to the life and work of the school. Pupils and those parents whose views were sought during the inspection appreciate the headteacher's open style of communication and the interest she shows in the pupils and their progress. Staff feel well led and supported and governors are confident in the headteacher's management and leadership style. Governors are fully aware of their role to monitor the quality of the school's curriculum provision and have observed the school at work. School self evaluation is thorough but has not yet involved staff, parents and governors working to the new guidance published by the National Society of the Church of England. The parish priest provides excellent support and guidance to staff and pupils and the chair of governors gives a strong and well informed Christian lead to school life. Pupils enjoy taking responsibility and value the opportunities they have to influence activities such as charitable fund raising. The school is in good heart and looks forward with excitement as it prepares to transfer into new accommodation.