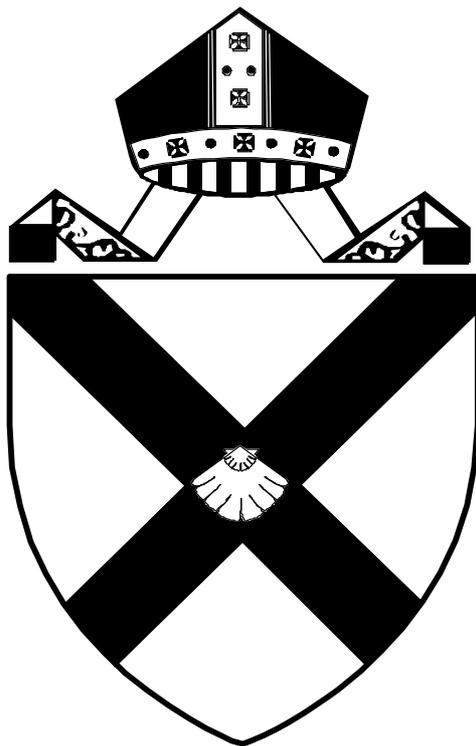


**STATUTORY INSPECTION of ANGLICAN SCHOOLS**

**ROCHESTER DIOCESE**

**2009**



**Bredhurst Church of England  
Primary School,  
Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JY.  
Voluntary Controlled.**

Kent CC

Unique Reference No: 118619

Headteacher: Mr. C. K. James

Chair of Governors: Mrs. J. Robson

Incumbent: The Revd. C. Butt.

Inspector: Mrs. J. Watts

Inspection: February 9<sup>th</sup> 2009

## **SUMMARY JUDGEMENT**

### **How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church of England school?**

Bredhurst Church of England Primary School is a good Church school with an outstanding Christian ethos.

**Overall Grade: 2 GOOD.**

### **SCHOOL CONTEXT**

Bredhurst Church of England Primary School is a small Voluntary Controlled school with 116 pupils. It is situated in countryside beyond a motorway, which separates the school and village from the large residential area of Gillingham. There are very few pupils from an ethnic minority heritage and about 20% of pupils are from worshipping Christian families. Ofsted recently judged the school to be good with outstanding social, moral, spiritual and cultural provision for pupils.

### **ESTABLISHED STRENGTHS**

- The distinctively Christian family ethos of the school.
- The Christian leadership of the headteacher and governing body.
- The mutually supportive links with the Parish church.

### **FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

- Relate Religious Education (RE) more to pupils' own lives for their personal development.
- Involve the whole governing body in monitoring and evaluating the church aspects of the school.
- Invest in some new resources to support the delivery of Collective Worship.

### **How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners? Grade 1: Outstanding.**

Bredhurst school is a 'caring Christian community', as it states in all documentation. Christian values are promoted and nurtured throughout all aspects of school life. Pupils love coming to school and say that they feel happy and special. Pupils know that God cares for each of them as individuals and that the school helps them to remember this. Pupils feel secure and get on well together. Adults in the school have very good supportive relationships with one another and this is reflected in their interaction with the pupils. Pupils say they know that their opinions matter. The Christian family ethos has a positive impact on pupils' spiritual and moral development and pupils have a strong sense of working together and looking after one another and the environment God gave them. Pupils can explain that this is how Jesus taught people to live, in the Bible. The school environment is uplifting, and good displays of pupils' work on RE nourish pupils' spiritual development. Christian symbols around the school encourage reflection and serve to remind pupils and parents of the strong relationship with St. Peter's Church.

## **What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?**

### **Grade 2: Good**

Collective worship has a central place in school life and has a very positive impact on pupils, who speak very enthusiastically about it. They enjoy worship times and value the opportunities to participate and sing praise to God. They say lighting the candle helps them to think about God, the light being with them. Singing is lively and enhances the worshipful atmosphere. Pupils can relate the creative Christian teaching from collective worship to their own lives. However, some opportunities for spiritual development are limited by the current resources used to plan worship. Most teachers and teaching assistants attend Collective Worship daily and, as a result of this inspection, the governing body now expects full teacher attendance. Both pupils and parents enjoy their special services in the church which celebrate major Christian festivals throughout the year. These services are well attended by parents. The deputy headteacher as worship coordinator works hard to ensure that collective worship always has biblical and Anglican elements. Pupils therefore know the Lord's Prayer well. Each class enjoys a prayer time before the end of the day and Grace before lunch.

## **How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school. Grade 2: Good**

This delightful village school has an inclusive family feel because the head teacher and senior managers are committed and clear about their Christian vision. The governing body is committed to maintaining and developing the school as a Church school but is not yet fully involved in the evaluation process. The school's self-evaluation as a Church school is accurate and this effective evaluative process has highlighted areas for development in Collective Worship. RE is well resourced and has an important place in the school. There are good opportunities for learning about religions but weaknesses in relating the religious content to pupils' own lives. Governors maintain excellent communication between the church and the school. They ensure that pupils are both invited to and involved in church services at key festival times throughout the year. The Rector makes a valued contribution to the worship and pastoral care of the school. Parents speak very positively about the school, especially its good discipline, caring ethos and opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually and morally within a Christian framework. Parents feel staff are always approachable, open and friendly and many chose this school for their children because of its Church school status.