



Gwella Inspection of Church in Wales Schools Report

Bronington V.A. School
School Lane, Whitchurch,
SY13 3HN

Diocese: St Asaph

Local authority: Wrexham

Date of Inspection: 18th and 18th June 2018

Date of last inspection: January 2012

School's unique reference number: 6653301

Headteacher: Mrs Angela Birkinshaw M.Ed (N.P.Q.H.)

Inspector's name: Mr Gareth Williams M.Ed.



School context

Bronington is a voluntary aided Church-in-Wales primary school situated in the village of Bronington four miles from Whitchurch. The school caters for boys and girls aged 3-11 years. The school has 98 pupils on roll plus 7 part-time nursery children. The catchment area is not economically disadvantaged with most pupils coming from prosperous families. At present 5.1% of pupils are registered for free school meals. There are currently no pupils with English as an Additional Language. There are 14.7% of pupils which have been identified as having Additional Learning Needs. Bronington school is at present in its final year of a licensed budget deficit with a good chance to clear it this year. At this moment in time no child has been withdrawn from Religious Education or Collective Worship.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Bronington as a Church in Wales school are good

The school incorporates its church school status naturally into all aspects of school life, enjoying good links with the church and community it serves. There is a strong ethos of love and care within the school. The children value and enjoy their membership of the school! The Reverend Hughes and his wife visit the school on a regular basis to conduct school services and advise on religious issues and are also supportive members of the school team. The Bishop's visitor is also a valued member of the school team. Pupils are curious, questioning and reflective about the world they live in, spiritual issues and moral challenges. They are given many opportunities to contribute to their learning environment and the wider world. All this is done with reflection and appreciation of the world God has created.

Established strengths

- The excellent behaviour and attitude of the children.
- The Christian leadership of the Headteacher
- The high standard of Collective Worship
- The caring, inclusive ethos of the school.
- The way the children of Bronington are supported by all adults to secure their full potential.
- The planning, recording and delivery of Religious Education.

Focus for development

- To further develop assessment in R.E, so that it has the same focus as the Core subjects..
- To further develop the role of the "God Squad" within school.
- To ensure that the church Self Evaluation structure involves all stakeholders
- For pupils to regularly, plan organise and lead whole school/class Collective Worship.

The prospects for Improvement in the future are good.

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

In Bronington Christian fellowship is evident once you cross the threshold and is at the core of all it's work. The school's Christian character guarantees a solid foundation for the personal, academic and spiritual wellbeing of all pupils. The children display a positive approach to learning which is reflected in the standards achieved. It is evident that pupils achieve well throughout the school regardless of gender and free school meal status. The local authority and agencies ensure that pupils with additional needs are identified and intervention and liaison with specialists ensure that expected levels of progress are met, particularly for those who are vulnerable. Pupils' attendance is good and the behaviour of the children is excellent.

Bronington school has a genuine Christian caring ethos permeating throughout the school, which has a positive impact on the health and well being of staff and pupils alike, providing a good basis for teaching and learning to take place. When questioned the children found great difficulty in finding anything that they would like to change about the school. Christian signs, symbols and the school's seven values are clearly displayed throughout the school to remind pupils of the commitment to Christianity and to provoke reflection of biblical stories and key biblical figures.

The local vicar and his wife visit the school regularly to lead Collective Worship. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect quietly and to contribute confidently in the Collective Worship sessions, by using their own prayers and sharing experiences. All school staff lead by example and place an appropriate emphasis on the moral development of each child within the school. Pupils are very willing to accept responsibility, for example the older children love to help the younger ones at breaktimes and lunchtimes.

Pupils show respect for a variety of beliefs, attitudes and other cultural and social traditions, and have a good understanding of equal opportunities and fairness. Pupils' sense of values are heightened by raising their awareness of what is acceptable and unacceptable, and by promoting strong values, emphasizing respect, honesty and courtesy towards others. The school empowers all children to make decisions for themselves and to take responsibility by preparing them to become the citizens of the future.

Relationships with parents are well established and are very good. The school has an open door policy, which is highly valued by the parents. They are invited to approach staff with any issues which are dealt with promptly and efficiently. The school also engages with parents via twitter social media and a website. Focused meetings with teachers are offered each term. An active PTA provide a range of social and fundraising opportunities. The school also opens its doors to the local community church groups Mother and Toddler groups, Community Council, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

Using a variety of teaching styles staff ensure that all pupils are engaged in R.E. lessons and are able to reach their full potential. All pupils display a positive attitude towards R.E. They listen attentively dramatize discuss and comment on stories and celebrations from the bible and other cultures. Pupils make progress in line with their age and ability. In 2015, the Governors implemented the new Church in Wales scheme of work. The the school has moved forward with its curriculum planning, ensuring the long term scheme of work is fully representative of the Literacy and Numeracy Framework. Expectations within RE are as high as for other subjects.

R.E. lessons are delivered as part of a regular weekly timetable. The time allocation meets the statutory requirements. Provision is monitored by the Headteacher, Bishop's Visitor and the vicar as governor with responsibility for R.E. The RE Link Governor and Bishop's Visitor monitor RE and Collective Worship across the school to inform future planning.

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good

Collective Worship at Bronington is distinctly Christian and central to the life of the school community. There is daily whole school worship. All the staff lead worship on a regular basis enabling the children to experience individual styles of delivery. The children in the God Squad also have opportunities to plan and lead worship. It is also provides the children with good examples to model. Collective Worship provides an opportunity for pupils to come together as a Christian family within the school, to hear Bible narratives and stories with Christian values, which enable the children to develop an understanding of spirituality. The caring attitude of the older children on the yard is an excellent example of these Christian values in action.

The Christian ethos of the school is reflected in the provision of a focus point with Christian symbols and Each act of worship includes the Lord's Prayer, Anglican Responses, The Grace, and an appropriate Hymn with a period of quiet reflection. Three candles are lit at the beginning of the service to signify the presence of God to the pupils. Planning, delivering and evaluating worship is seen as important in Bronington school. The standard of the class worship taken by the God Squad was good.

The Reverend Clive Hughes and his wife visit school regularly to lead Collective Worship. Both of them have their own distinct way of presenting their material, which is good for the children to experience. Children really enjoy these visits very much and show affection and respect for their spiritual leaders. This is a powerful link with the church community. All the school community have a good understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All the children have attended three Eucharistic services to date and the vast majority of them chose to consume the elements

Collective Worship teaches the pupils to model their behaviour on Christian values and teachings from Biblical stories, and to relate these to everyday life. Whilst most acts of worship are rooted in the Christian faith, the school also include celebrations of other cultures and faiths. There is also a link with Lesotho which gives the children a good example of a different culture and lifestyle. Parents are encouraged to reinforce the school's Christian Values at home and take part in any home-school activities.

The school aims to ensure that the acts of Collective Worship are interactive as and when appropriate. Questions are asked and pupils are encouraged to participate, either through verbal contributions, reading prayers and stories, film clips, playing instruments and taking time to reflect on the theme of Collective Worship. Welsh and English songs and hymns are used in Collective Worship to praise God. The children look forward to Collective Worship and love to participate at all levels.

Pupils are invited to join in prayers during Collective Worship, and the God Squad take class services however there are limited opportunities for other children to research, plan and deliver whole school services. During the time for prayer a quiet reflection is observed for the pupils to reflect on the key messages from the Collective Worship and have their own quiet time with God. Anglican responses are used throughout Collective Worship. Biblical stories and teachings are a key feature of worship. These stories are related to issues and situations the pupils can identify with, so that they have up to date meaning and relevance to their lives. Christian symbols are used throughout and the meaning and relevance discussed with the pupils throughout the year.

All staff, governors and the clergy are aware of the statutory requirements for Collective Worship. These are met in full. The school allocates fifteen minutes daily for Collective Worship. The Collective Worship coordinator ensures that monitoring systems are in place. Parents rights are clearly outlined in the school prospectus, which states that they have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship.

The effectiveness of the Religious Education is good

Standards in RE are at least good throughout the school and there are examples of excellent work on display. Bronington School delivers a broad and balanced curriculum, lessons are vibrant, exciting and stimulate children's reflection and wonderment. Staff ensure that there is continuity and progression throughout the school and pupils have a wide breadth of knowledge and understanding. When questioned the children were able to recall many biblical stories displaying an understanding of underlying moral messages. Literacy, Numeracy and ICT skills are evident across the curriculum.

Teachers utilise a variety of effective teaching and learning strategies. Appropriate and varied learning styles are planned for to engage all pupils and give each individual every chance of success. Different learning styles are considered when planning lessons. Differentiation is clear in all planning and is evident during learning walks.

Clear learning objectives and success criteria are set at the start of each lesson throughout the school. This gives a focus and meaning to the pupils. As a result the pupils use these to ensure that they understand what is asked of them and it helps them to become more independent learners. Formative assessment focuses on the success criteria of the lesson and pupil targets. Providing feedback in such a way makes pupils aware that their work is valued and important.

Marking provides the pupils with regular feedback relating to their specific targets and the success criteria of the lesson. Next steps feedback are given for the pupils to follow, although pupils need to be given more opportunities to respond so that the next steps can be the focus for development.

Long and medium term planning have recently been reviewed throughout the school. It is now based on a thematic approach with a two year cycle. Planning is thorough and incorporates a variety of teaching and learning styles suitable for the pupils, ensuring they are engaged and make the most of the learning opportunities offered to them. A number of children who were observed during the Inspection were able to verbally communicate their thoughts and understanding of the topic under discussion and to commit these on paper.

Good use is made of a variety of resources, enhancing the curriculum to ensure engagement for the pupils and providing them with support where appropriate. The school has many artefacts for teaching Christianity and other faiths and these are a useful resource for classes to enhance learning.

The school is developing its self evaluation processes to ensure that standards are raised together with the school's Christian character. Bronington regularly reviews R.E. and Collective Worship as part of a regular cycle which fits in with Bishop's Visitor reports. All staff and the vicar are aware of the statutory requirements for R.E. and Collective Worship. These are met in full.

The Bishop's Visitor visits school twice a term to support and guide. The termly reports help to inform the self evaluation process to ensure that standards in Bronington remain high.

Governors manage the budget prudently and the Headteacher sources and accesses grants as well. An example of this would be the grants obtained from the Archbishop Rice Jones Fund and the Wrexham Parochial Education Trust. All Governors, staff and vicar are aware of the statutory requirements for Collective Worship. These are met in full. The school allows fifteen minutes daily for Collective Worship. All teachers regularly attend RE training provided by the Diocese, recently two members of staff have been trained in the Understanding Christianity resource.

The Bishop of St. Asaph will be visiting the school on June 20th to officially open the outdoor faith garden, and talk to the children about Religious Education. His arrival is awaited with great excitement and anticipation by the whole school community.

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

The headteacher who has been in post for five years, has been able to ensure that her Christian vision is shared by the whole community. It is evident that she regards her role as a vocation, which is part of her ministry and calling. All the Governing Body, including Foundation Governors are fully aware of supporting the Christian character of the school.

The Governing Body and staff work as a team in promoting the ethos and vision of the school. This ensures that the Christian vision of the school is communicated and modelled throughout the school day to the whole school community. Parents recognise this as a strong feature of the school. The school's mission statement and vision is underpinned by Christian principles and is clearly highlighted around the school. The school's website, social media, twitter, texting and the prospectus are used to promote the Christian ethos.

The school, church and diocese maintain close links. During special times of the Christian year pupils take part and lead services in church. This shows the importance of the Christian calendar to the pupils and also involves them in the family of the church. The reflection areas within the school also improve the children's awareness of the close link with the church and the Christian faith.

Collective Worship is evaluated by the school council and the God Squad and by the Bishop's Visitor who is due to observe all staff in their turn. Pupils are evaluating Collective Worship which ensures that they are more involved and strengthen their interest in the worship, especially when their ideas are used.

At present R.E. lessons are informally evaluated as part of the school's peer to peer observations in the Summer term. R.E. is part of the school based review system where subjects are monitored in line with the school's monitoring timetable.

The S.M.T. have a clear vision for the school, the staff are involved in the strategic planning process ensuring that the school provides the best education for its pupils.

The school recognises the close partnership it has with parents in supporting and developing children. Parents meetings are planned termly in which they are encouraged to share and discuss any worries and concerns they may have about their children. Parents attend termly pupil meetings, an annual report meeting with the class teacher and open days throughout the year. Open mornings and afternoons are held for Nursery and Reception children enabling parents to come and see their child's work.

The Friends of Bronington school is supported well and have recently raised money to enable the children to go on educational visits and renew the playground. The School Council/Eco committee and the God Squad are involved with decisions throughout the school.

The Governing Body acts as a critical friend to the headteacher and regularly challenge the vision and reports on performance data. This provides accountability and challenge ensuring that the best performance from staff and pupils is obtained. Governors are regularly invited into school to take part in subject reviews. These have included; book scrutinies, learning walks and discussions about performance data. Governors have first hand experience of the school and are able to be effective in their strategic role.

**The school fulfils all the statutory requirements for Collective Worship.
The school fulfils all the statutory requirements for Religious Education.**

*The content of this report should be considered alongside the Estyn team's Section 28 report. I would like to thank the Estyn inspection team for their co operation. I would also like to thank the Headteacher, Staff, Governors and pupils of Bronington school for their welcome and cooperation.
Mr Gareth Williams M.Ed.*

Report under Section 50 of the Education Act 2005 Arolwg o dan Adran 50 o Ddeddf Addysg 2005

Parents' Questionnaire - Holiadur Rhieni

There were 18 responses - Yr oedd 18 ymateb

	YES / YDWYF	NO / NACYDWYF	
Are you aware that this is a church school?	18		<i>A ydych yn ymwybodol mai Ysgol Eglwys yw hon?</i>
Do you believe that the school is a place which is built upon clear Christian values?	18		<i>A ydych o'r fam fod yr ysgol yn sefydliad sydd wedi ei adeiladu ar sylfaen Gristionogol glir?</i>
This is a Church School, that is a school with a Christian character. Was this fact important when you were choosing a school for your child/children?	10	8	<i>Ysgol Eglwys, sef ysgol gyda chymeriad Cristionogol, yw hon. A oedd y ffaith yma yn bwysig wrth I chi ddewis ysgol i'ch plentyn/plant?</i>

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	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
The school has a distinctive Christian character	10	4	4			Mae cymeriad Cristnogol nodedig yn perthyn i'r ysgol
The school's distinctive Christian character makes a significant contribution to pupils' education	8	5	4	1		<i>Mae cymeriad Cristionogol nodedig yn gwneud cyfraniad awyddocaol I addysg y disgyblion.</i>
Pupils find Collective Worship a valuable experience	8	6	4			Ym marn y disgyblion, mae'r addoli ar y cyd yn brofiad gwerthfawr
The school has effective links with the local church and other faith communities	9	5	3	1		Mae gan yr ysgol gysylltiadau effeithiol â'r eglwys leol a chymunedau ffydd eraill.
The school keeps parents well informed about the work that pupils do in Religious Education	3	11	1	2	1	Mae'r ysgol yn hysbysu'r rhieni yn dda am y gwaith a wna'r disgyblon mewn Addysg Grefyddol
The school encourages pupils to care for God's Creation (the environment) as well as for themselves	12	3	3			Mae'r ysgol yn hybu'r disgyblion i ofalu am Greadigaeth Duw (yr amgylchfed), yn ogystal â'n nhw eu hunain..
The school encourages pupils to consider people in other countries, and how they can assist them, when help is required	9	7	1	1		Mae'r ysgol yn hybu'r disgyblion i ystyried pobl mewn gwledydd eraill, a sut fedran nhw eu cynorthwyo pan bo angen.
The school ensures links are made with the local community	11	6	1			Mae gan yr ysgol gysylltiadau effeithiol â'r gymuned leol..
	Cytuno'n llwyr	Cytuno	Yn ail na'r llall	Anghytuno	Anghytun o'n llwyr	