



The National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools
(Carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005)

Stokes Church of England Primary School

Inspection Report

Address of School:	Queens Road Blaby Leics. LE8 4EG
Telephone Number:	0116 2772082
Email Address:	admin@stokes.leics.sch.uk
School Category:	Voluntary Controlled
Unique Reference Number:	120116
Type of School:	Primary
Diocese:	Leicester
Local Authority:	Leicestershire
Inspection Date:	14 th March 2013
Reporting Inspector (and No):	Mrs. Wendy Martin No.168
Appropriate Authority:	The governing body
Chair of Governors:	Mrs. Ruth Smith
Headteacher:	Mrs. Deirdre Kallquist
Pupils on school roll:	350

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LE8 4EG

Diocese: Leicester

Local authority: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 14th March 2013

Date of last inspection: 1st and 4th December 2009

School's unique reference number: 120116

Headteacher: Mrs. Deirdre Kallquist

Inspector's name and number: Mrs. Wendy Martin No.168.

School context

Stokes Primary School is situated in the suburban village of Blaby. There are 350 pupils on roll, with a very small number from ethnic minority groups. There are a number of out of catchment pupils, including some from Leicester City. The school is housed in two large buildings, set in attractive, well managed grounds. The Headteacher was appointed in January 2012.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Stokes as a Church of England school are good

There is a strong commitment to a Christian ethos in which staff and pupils are valued as unique individuals. The newly appointed headteacher is demonstrating strong leadership in providing an environment where everyone is encouraged to flourish and achieve their full potential.

Established strengths

- The headteacher has a clear vision, with high expectations of staff and pupils.
- The school is committed to being part of the wider community, and has good links with local churches and other organisations.
- Provision for learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is very effective.

Focus for development

- Provide an attractive area in the grounds to enhance opportunities for pupils to experience spirituality.
- Build on existing good practise to formalise the monitoring and evaluation of the school as an Anglican school, by governors, staff and pupils.

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

There is a warm welcoming atmosphere, in which staff, pupils, parents and visitors feel valued as part of a Christian community. A new Vision Statement, agreed through full consultation with everyone involved, clearly reflects this Christian ethos. Pupils are proud of their school, pointing out high quality displays of Christian and other world faiths, and reflection corners in each classroom, with prayers they have written. A seat under a tree in the Foundation Stage playground provides a reflection area for the youngest children to withdraw and sit quietly. School councillors are enthusiastic about their role, feeling that their views are respected and acted upon. A variety of charities are supported, including Red Nose Day, Comic Relief and raising funds to sponsor a staff member running a marathon for Headway. The school is involved in the Connecting Classrooms project, recently hosting a group of headteachers from India. Pupils worked with various local community groups to formulate a Blaby Village Community Plan, producing a 3D model of Blaby village, while a small group attended a day conference on Beliefs, Values and Belonging to Society, returning with models to be displayed in school. Behaviour is good, and a dedicated mentoring room gives opportunities for a small minority of pupils to withdraw, and reflect on their behaviour where necessary. The school places importance on healthy lifestyles and caring for the environment, and offers a wide range of extra curricular activities to develop pupils' skills and confidence.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Collective worship is central to life in Stokes school, and sets the tone for the day. It is well planned, following a programme of themes which reflect the Christian calendar. The worship table, with candles, cross and a Bible, and coloured cloths to reflect the liturgical year, provides a focus. The purchase of new ICT equipment has enhanced worship, providing visual images, and making it more interactive. During the collective worship seen during inspection, the headteacher skilfully used part of the Easter story to stimulate discussion and reflection. Pupils responded with confidence and enthusiasm. They spoke of how much they look forward to worship, saying it makes them "Feel like part of a big family." Clergy from different local churches lead worship regularly, and pupils say they enjoy these visits. Years 1 and 2 visited the Baptist Church to enact a traditional baptism, and major Christian festivals are celebrated in All Saints Church. Parents value the opportunity to be involved in these services. Celebration assemblies are an affirmation of individuals, groups and whole classes, providing opportunities for the whole school to celebrate together. Parents are often invited when their child's achievements are recognised. Formal monitoring and evaluation of worship by staff, pupils and governors will ensure that standards are consistently high.

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

The headteacher, ably assisted by a new deputy head, senior leadership team and governors, has made a significant impact on Stokes school in a very short time, providing outstanding leadership. She is committed to the pursuit of excellence, through a nurturing Christian environment, and the school has responded to her high expectations of everyone involved. The Diocesan Toolkit has been used to rigorously evaluate the school as an Anglican school, and is linked to the school improvement plan, with clearly focused development priorities. Parents are happy with the school, and feel very well informed, for example through the "16 Day Book", the new website, and frequent newsletters. Questionnaires to parents and pupils have been carefully analysed and acted upon. Governors are enthusiastic, and a pro-forma has been produced for governor visits, providing a consistent format for monitoring and evaluation, and feedback. The headteacher provides a very full report for each governors meeting, to ensure that everyone is kept fully informed. The school is now well placed to keep monitoring and evaluation of the school as an Anglican school high on the agenda.