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## Diocese of Chichester

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## Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

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## Second Inspection Report

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Name of school: Bishop Luffa CE School

Address: Bishop Luffa Close  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO19 3LT

Name of inspector: John Ross

NS inspector's number: 476

Date of inspection: 20 & 22 October 2008

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The inspection of denominational education and Collective Worship in the school was carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

## Information about the school

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Type of school:	Comprehensive
Unique reference number:	126097
Status:	Voluntary Aided
Number on roll:	1381
Age range of learners:	11-18
Gender of learners:	Mixed
LEA:	West Sussex
Name of chair of governors:	Alison Green
Name of headteacher:	Nick Taunt
Date of previous inspection:	January 2006

### Description of the school

Bishop Luffa Church of England School is a specialist technology college with a sixth form. From an annual intake of 220, the majority of pupils come from church families, principally from the Anglican deaneries of Chichester, Arundel & Bognor and Westbourne. For pupils who have no church connection, 20 places each year are allocated to those who live in the local community and five places are reserved for pupils with exceptional needs. Over 95% of learners are of White British heritage and none is at an early stage of learning English as an additional language. The school has Leading Edge and RATL status, Arts Mark, Sports Mark, Travel Mark and Investor in People awards.

### Key for inspection grades

<b>1</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Inadequate</b>

## **Summary judgement**

Bishop Luffa CE School is an outstanding Church school. 'A great Christian community' said one pupil, a description to which others readily agreed. Others described it as 'an outstanding, amazing place' where learners are well taught within a 'bubbly, welcoming atmosphere, rooted in Christian values'. 'More than anything, we are happy here' was the view of another student. Christian values and relationships are embedded in the daily life of the school. The school is a tolerant society, without prejudice, where all members of its community can live out their own spiritual journey without fear, shame or embarrassment. As well as the strong Christian ethos the school is distinctively Anglican, with liturgy playing an essential part in Collective Worship. There are also close links with parish churches and Chichester Cathedral. The school has made good progress since the last inspection and has been successful in addressing the issues for development raised in the last denominational report.

## **Established strengths**

- the strong, inclusive Christian ethos which permeates every aspect of school life
- the clear, visionary Christian leadership of the headteacher, well supported by an effective and committed leadership team and governing body
- the high quality of Religious Education and the excellent progress made in this area since the last denominational inspection

## **Focus for development**

- to ensure the effectiveness of succession planning and the continuation of the Christian ethos as a number of staff retire in the next few years
- to ensure that students who join the school from other institutions at post 16 level feel fully included as part of the school's Christian community

## **How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all its learners?**

The school is outstanding at meeting the needs of all its learners through its Christian character. All groups of learners, irrespective of ability and background, make at least good progress in their time at the school and many demonstrate outstandingly successful achievement. The school takes significant steps to ensure that learners do not feel vulnerable or isolated by ensuring that every learner has at least one adult in school to whom they can relate. Governors, staff and learners themselves all play a vital role in keeping on track those in danger of falling by the wayside. This is true to gospel values. A strong pastoral system, coupled with a culture in which the learners look after one another, ensures a working environment which is happy, safe and secure. Many learners participate actively in the wide range of sporting, musical, dramatic and other extra-curricular activities. Fundraising for charity is strong, as are links with the local and wider community. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is outstanding. Learners of all ages are articulate and confident and speak of faith issues freely and openly.

During the week of the inspection all Year 7 pupils were going away on a three day residential visit to the Isle of Wight and spoke about this with great excitement and enthusiasm. This is part of an ongoing induction programme which makes new pupils feel comfortable and secure and gives them the opportunity to make new friends. Members of the sixth form also receive an enjoyable and relevant induction programme. Most students join the sixth form from the main school but a minority join from other institutions. The school is aware of the challenge to make these students feel fully included as part of the Christian community which they are joining. There are excellent opportunities for learners to take responsibility within the school, for example by acting as peer mentors.

In the school grounds can be found the 'Quiet Place'. Created originally in response to the death of two students in 2000, it provides a place of comfort and retreat for anyone in need. There are many examples of Christian symbols and artefacts around the school, including some striking stained glass, leaving the visitor in no doubt about Church school distinctiveness. However, it is the warmth of relationships within the community which confirm that the Christian ethos is present in all that the school does.

**Grade: 1**

## **What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?**

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is outstanding. The prospectus accurately states 'As a Church school we ensure that worship is at the centre of school life.' Learners take a full part in Collective Worship, often in a leadership capacity. They play a major role in its planning and evaluation. There are many elements of the Anglican tradition used within the school's worship. One act of Collective Worship observed, a Eucharist for the entire Year 11, was outstanding because it was fully inclusive, giving everyone present an opportunity to participate through hymns, responses to prayers, the giving of the Peace and going forward for Holy Communion or a blessing, which a large proportion did. In addition, around 30 pupils had specific roles: musical, reading, leading intercessions and assisting the celebrant. A visiting preacher from a local free church gave a talk with a very clear message: 'Say "thank you" to God for all that we have.' Pupils showed their warm appreciation to the speaker.

Most Collective Worship is delivered through tutor groups, using materials developed by a team of Christian staff. Indications are that learners find these sessions useful and enjoyable. 'Something to look forward to,' and 'a great way to start the day,' were descriptions offered by some. The Clergy Team, drawn from local churches, makes an invaluable contribution to the school's Collective Worship. There is an active and well attended Christian Union, led by sixth form students, which gives opportunity for learners to explore and share their faith together. Collective Worship is well planned and organised and is regularly monitored and evaluated by learners, staff and governors. It makes an outstanding contribution to learners' spiritual growth and development.

**Grade: 1**

## How effective is Religious Education?

The effectiveness of Religious Education is outstanding. The department has improved significantly since the last inspection. Standards and achievement in RE display an upward trend over the last three years and are now consistently high at every level. Learners of all ages and backgrounds make good and often outstanding progress. RE is taught by a team of dedicated and highly qualified specialists who have a passion for the subject. Leadership is strong and inspiring. The department is well resourced and accommodation is good. Schemes of work are detailed and have undergone thorough review with a very sharp focus on teaching and learning. Teaching and learning are always good or better. The range of learning activities is now a real strength. Interactive whiteboards are used effectively. At GCSE in 2008, 96% of full course pupils and 80% of short course pupils achieved A\*-C. 67% of the full course option group pupils achieved A\*-A. In 2009 the first whole-year cohort will sit the full course GCSE. At A-level there were 16 candidates in 2008 who achieved a 100% success rate, over 44% achieving A/B.

The department has been successful in revising its schemes of work to make the syllabus relevant to the needs of all learners. RE is a popular subject, enjoyed by learners of all ages. One said, 'we do religious stuff in a fun way.' Another commented, 'RE is one of the most interactive subjects we have.' A Year 8 lesson about Judaism and the Passover included an excellent range of activities which gave very good opportunities for collaborative work. Pupils enjoyed the activities and showed almost boundless enthusiasm. One Year 13 lesson about St John's Gospel was outstanding because all students were challenged and engaged, making very good progress in relation to their ability. All major world religions are covered in Years 7 to 9 but overall there is a clear emphasis on Christianity. Learners' attitudes are good and often exemplary. RE makes an excellent contribution to learners' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and this has a very positive impact on the overall Christian ethos of the school.

**Grade: 1**

## How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a Church school?

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a Church school is outstanding. The leadership of the headteacher is strong and visionary. He is well supported by a strong and effective leadership team which, combined with a stable, committed and efficient governing body, promotes the distinctive Christian nature of the school. Governors actively monitor the school's work through their role as link governors and through their involvement with admissions and staff appointments. They are now well informed about the quality of Collective Worship, through visits and meetings. The school undertook a comprehensive survey of parents' views in 2007 in which parents spoke appreciatively of the school. Parental satisfaction is high and most parents believe their child likes the school and is happy there. The school's own self evaluation involves all stakeholders and is rigorous and accurate.

The school development plan includes Christian ethos as one of its four key priorities, to be addressed by every department. The induction programme for new staff includes a session by the headteacher on what it means to be working in a Church school. Governors involved in staff appointments ensure that the school's Christian ethos is upheld by all staff. Staff feel they are well supported, for example in managing tutor groups based on Collective Worship. There is a staff Eucharist on training days and prayers are said before staff meetings. A staff prayer group meets monthly. Links with the parishes, deanery and other denominations are strong. The school receives excellent support from local clergy, the diocese and Chichester Cathedral. The school faces a challenge in the coming years as a significant number of long serving staff, who have played an important role in promoting the Christian ethos, approach retirement. The school has well-established plans to address this by ensuring that, through succession planning, the Christian ethos is upheld and strengthened.

**Grade: 1**

<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for Religious Education</b>	<b>Yes</b>



**Diocese of Chichester**

**Judgement Recording Form**

Name of school:	Bishop Luffa CE School
Date of inspection:	20 & 22 October 2008
NS Inspector's number:	476
Status:	Voluntary Aided
Number on roll:	1381
Type of school:	Comprehensive

Rating 1-4

<b>How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all its learners?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>How effective is Religious Education?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a Church school?</b>	<b>1</b>

<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>The school meets the statutory requirement for Religious Education</b>	<b>Yes</b>