

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Acton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Chester Road,
Acton,
Nantwich,
Cheshire
CW5 8LG

Diocese: Chester

LA: Cheshire

Dates of inspection: 6th July 2006

Date of last inspection: 29th November – 1st December 1999

School's Unique reference number: 111265

Headteacher: Mr J D Wycherley

Inspector's name and number: Graham H Nuttall

School context

Acton C E Primary School has 5 classes ranging from Reception to Y6 with 124 pupils on roll. There are few pupils from the ethnic communities and the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is well below the national average.

Approximately 14% of pupils have been identified with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and three pupils have a statement of special educational need. Pupils are drawn from a wide rural and scattered catchment area and whilst housing stock is varied a few pupils are socially and economically advantaged. Most pupils enter the school with levels of ability at or above those expected for pupils of their age.

Summary Judgement

Acton C E School is a good Church of England school with many strengths. The school is a caring, friendly and welcoming community. The Christian foundation of the school is evident in the way pupils conduct themselves around the school and particularly within the very high standards of behaviour and manners. The school ethos encapsulates positive values and attitudes and these values are clearly reflected in the school Mission Statement "Every Child Matters". Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility not only for themselves, but also each other as well as those in the wider community who are less fortunate than themselves.

Established strengths

- Good strong links with the local church and the wider community.
- A very caring and supportive ethos within which all pupils are nurtured and highly valued.
- The exemplary behaviour and manners of the pupils.
- High quality relationships within the school.

Focus for development

- Provide a centre of focus and develop periods of reflection within acts of worship
- Provide appropriate In Service Training for staff in order to further strengthen the impact and provision of school worship.
- Broaden pupils' understanding of cultural and religious differences.

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

The contribution of the school's distinctive character towards meeting the needs of all its learners is good. The school makes good provision to meet the needs of all its learners. High quality relationships exist throughout the school and thus pupils feel secure and highly valued as individuals. Pupils are proud of their school. Christian values are evident within the school and these impact directly upon the quality of care to be found within Acton C E School. Pupils speak with confidence and enthusiasm about the way they are treated with respect from all members of the wider staff team. Both teaching and non-teaching staff contribute to the high levels of care and this is to be commended. The school makes a significant impact upon the development of pupils' personal, social, moral and spiritual development. Whatever their gifts or talents the school believes that each child has the capacity to excel and

thereby is totally committed to inclusion. The School Council, the Road Safety Representatives and Recycling Officers demonstrate good opportunities for pupils to take on responsibility within the school community and help to prepare them for continuing education and adult life. Pupils show a high degree of service towards the community and particularly those less fortunate than themselves. Some very creditable sums of money have been raised for various charities. Academic expectations are founded upon individual pupil needs and strengths with systems being in place to reward each child's achievements and to celebrate success. The school provides curriculum enrichment in a variety of ways including some lunchtime and after school clubs and activities. Acton C E School is highly regarded by all stakeholders and the wider community.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. Acts of worship are well prepared and thoughtfully presented. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian and honours Anglican traditions, making some good use of links with the parish church of St. Mary's. Collective worship is led by a variety of staff; with topics for the weekly theme being planned termly and consideration being given to religious festivals, whole school topics or seasonal characteristics. The content of school worship helps pupils to focus upon Christian values and this impacts positively upon the general behaviour and manners in addition to the spiritual ethos to be found within the school. Services are held in church on very regular occasions and both the vicar and members of the laity assist with the worship. The school should consider providing a centre of focus within acts of worship and periods of reflection could be usefully extended. The village and surrounding districts of Acton comprise an almost totally mono-cultural population and the school could now usefully develop opportunities for the provision of some multi-faith awareness within collective worship. The high quality relationships to be found within the school ensure that pupils respond with enthusiasm. The school promotes some good opportunities for prayer and sung praise within a particularly well-ordered atmosphere of calmness and reverence.

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

The Leadership and Management of the school as a Church School are good. Leadership and Management of the school give a clear purpose and direction. Foundation Governors in particular are firmly committed to the development of the school and willingly give their time and talents supporting the school within an Anglican perspective. A team of highly committed staff ably supports the Headteacher. Parents and the wider parish community also support the school and pupils experience positive role models from all adults employed within the school who live out their Christian faith in practice. There is a strong "Friends" Association who work hard to provide additional resources for the school. Staff provide clear directives and expect high standards of behaviour and manners, both of which are achieved through mutual respect and care for one another. Teaching and non-teaching staff feel involved and appreciated, whilst parents feel that the school has a special quality that enables all learners to flourish as individuals. The Leadership and Management of the school has had a positive impact on learners and this provides a very sound basis for further enrichment as the school evolves and develops.