

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

All Saints' and St Richard's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

School Hill
Old Heathfield
Heathfield,
East Sussex
TN21 9AE

Diocese: Chichester

LA: East Sussex

Dates of inspection: 24-25 November 2005

Date of last inspection: 4-6 October 1999

School's Unique reference number: 114554

Headteacher: Sarah Ridyard

Inspector's name and number: Janet Taylor

School context

All Saints' and St Richard's Church of England Primary School is situated in the small village of Old Heathfield, in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The school is smaller than average. The school buildings are attractive and well maintained. Considerable improvements and modernisation to the school buildings have been made over recent years. The majority of pupils live in private housing and travel to school by car from the town of Heathfield and surrounding villages. The pupils are organised into 5 classes. At the time of inspection, there were 5 teachers and 7 teaching assistants.

Summary Judgement

All Saints' and St Richard's Primary School is an effective church school with a warm, welcoming family atmosphere and a distinctive Christian ethos. There are good opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development which impacts positively on all pupil's learning.

Collective worship is good and is an important aspect to the daily life of the school.

Religious Education in the school is good and teaching is well planned using an effective range of strategies to respond to children's learning styles, so that overall attainment is in line with national expectations.

The school is very well led by the new headteacher who has had a significant impact on the Christian ethos of the school. Governors are supportive, although their monitoring of the Christian character is in need of further development. There is good support by parents of the school.

Established strengths

- The dynamic Christian character of the school.
- The very good leadership of the school by the newly appointed headteacher.
- The good quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education.

Focus for development

- To review the Religious Education schemes of work in the light of the new East Sussex Agreed Syllabus and new diocesan guidance, to improve continuity and progression across the school and to establish a rigorous assessment system for Religious Education.
- To review the quality of recording in Religious Education and to develop a portfolio of levelled children's work for Religious Education.
- To continue to build on the work established to further develop the multi-cultural opportunities and experiences for children across the school.
- To extend the monitoring role of governors in relation to the Christian ethos of the school.

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

The school makes good provision to meet the needs of all pupils. There is a strong 'family' feel around the school which is reflected in the very good relationships demonstrated within the school community. The christian nature of the school is immediately obvious on entering the reception area and is reflected in displays

around the school and in the Hall.

Pupils are proud of their school and feel very close to their teachers and other adults in the school; they feel very well supported in both the classroom and the playground. They understand their school and class rules, as well as the rules and sanctions to manage behaviour. They think their opinions are taken seriously and that they are involved in the decisions taken in the school. Parents too, are very positive about the school's ethos and Christian character.

The good opportunities provided for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development enhance the learning for all pupils. Displays around the school reinforce and reflect this aspect of their learning. Since their Ofsted inspection in October 2005, progress has been made in taking forward cultural development, particularly through displays in every classroom, running a successful multicultural week and a recently established link with a school in Sierra Leone.

Grade 2

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

Collective worship is central to the Christian life of the school. Acts of worship are well planned and purposeful. The headteacher plans topics termly which are followed by visiting speakers and the two local clergy who lead the worship regularly. This adds depth to the worship and furthers opportunities for pupils' spiritual development. There is good attendance by parents at school services held at the church. Pupils are regularly involved in acts of collective worship and respond thoughtfully to questions. In the acts of worship observed, children were very attentive throughout and there were good opportunities for inspiration, awe and wonder, and personal response, which contributed positively on their spiritual development.

The school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of those of other faiths or of none and takes care to ensure that collective worship provides for their needs. Displays around the school reflect other faiths.

Grade 2

How effective is the religious education?

The Religious Education curriculum is broad, balanced and appropriate for a Church of England Primary School. The aims and purposes of the school's Religious Education are clearly stated in its policy, however the policy is due for updating. This is identified within the School's Improvement Plan and is a focus for Autumn term 2005, along with a review of the Religious Education schemes of work to improve continuity and progression.

The quality of teaching and learning is good in Religious Education throughout the school. Pupils' knowledge of Bible Stories and Jesus' Life is good. The teaching and learning experiences and opportunities provided for the pupils enable them to compare and explore other religions although this needs further development and has already been identified by the subject leader. Children enjoy their Religious Education lessons and are able to reflect on their relevance in their own lives. Children take pride in their work, they speak clearly and confidently and are keen to make contributions in class discussions.

Grade 2

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

The quality of leadership provided by the new headteacher is very good and contributes significantly to the success of All Saint's and St Richard's as a Church school. She has ensured the very good learning environment reinforces and reflects the Christian ethos of the school. Governors are supportive of the school and as yet have had little input into monitoring the Christian character of the school; this area

requires further development.

There are good links with the local church and quality of support from the two local clergy. The school is supported well by the parent body and there are very positive relationships with parents who believe the values of the school are good and are pleased with the way in which the school promotes its Christian ethos.

Grade 2

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