

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

CHURCH LEIGH
nr Uttoxeter
STOKE-ON-TRENT
ST10 4PT

Diocese: Lichfield

LA: Staffordshire

Dates of inspection: 7th July 2006

Date of last inspection: 26th March 2001

School's Unique reference number: 124256

Headteacher: Miss Amanda Shaw

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Elaine Johns, 284

School context

This small, village school has 73 pupils on roll, aged 3 to 9. It has recently developed a Foundation Stage department to include Nursery provision. The school has developing links with three other small schools in the area. The Headteacher was new to her post in January.

Summary Judgement

All Saints' is a good church school with outstanding features. Within the community there is strong support for the school and in turn the pupils, staff and governors ensure a lively and meaningful input to village life. The church foundation is valued highly.

Established strengths

- The links with All Saints' Church, the Pentecostal and Methodist Churches and the whole village community are noteworthy. Parents have a pride in their local school.
- The Vicar, foundation and other governors give strong support, working hard to promote the Christian faith. There is good evidence that this impacts very well on the lives of the pupils.
- The new Headteacher, alongside her staff, values and reciprocates the positive community spirit. Relationships are a strong feature.
- The Headteacher leads the effective evaluation of aspects of school life, generating enthusiasm and commitment from a range of people, including the learners.
- The pupils are involved in the day to day life of the school so that they accept responsibility most earnestly. They make sound links between what they do and the distinctiveness of being a church school.
- The time and energy given to promoting 'special' events such as Arts Week and Easter worship is commendable; art work is of a high quality.

Focus for development

- The role and use of prayer in class and whole school worship, giving special emphasis to the impact this has on the spiritual development of the learners.
- The review of the plan for Worship themes used throughout the year, so that elements of the Anglican tradition, curricular links and current issues have appropriate focus.
- To consider the best use of the hall space in Collective Worship, so that learners and staff can respond well to the different parts of worship and the growing range of good quality artefacts.

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

The effectiveness of the school's distinctive Christian character in meeting the needs of all its learners is good.

Learners are very aware of the part each plays in fostering good relationships in the school community. Individuals talk of the considerable efforts they make to reason, understand and be fair, taking turns to be school councillors, 'buddies' or 'friendship bench' mediators. Relationships are exemplary among all those involved with the school, which underpins the learners' very good social and moral development. One

outstanding feature is the breadth of support and involvement throughout the village and between the three churches. The learners discuss occasions when visitors have helped them appreciate Christian values, for example through the use of puppets. In turn, all learners are involved in the many opportunities to take part in special services and events where their abilities, work and contributions are valued. A good example of this is the Mothering Sunday service.

The annual Arts Week, the school focus on the wider world in its Lent projects and the collections to support specific need, such as Vision Aid, contribute to the good cultural awareness of the learners. Plans are made to create links with schools overseas.

The school grounds offer spaces for educational and team games alongside quiet and attractive areas. Learners talk enthusiastically and with imagination about the sculptures they

make. Some appreciate the garden areas, at present undergoing development. They look forward to seeing the front garden full of plants with saints' names – in this way they are involved well in what goes on. While learners' spiritual development is good overall, inside the building there are few places to support reflection and prayer during the day.

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

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

Collective Worship has an important status in the school, taking place in different locations, sometimes with other schools or church groups. The pupils have positive attitudes and enthusiasm for their role in leading services. They sing well and now contribute in special services through their choir. In school the Headteacher and staff lead worship which is delivered thoughtfully and the learners respond with interest, either in classroom or hall. Long term planning for worship themes which link to curriculum work is less secure; this is an area noted by staff for development. Christian values are shared effectively and a strong feature is the interest and contributions to worship from the Vicar, Foundation Governors and visitors. Pupils remember what they have been taught. At present the arrangement of furniture in the hall does not help all the learners to participate as well as possible, particularly in times of prayer.

A range of good quality artefacts is used well in whole school assembly. This is a growing resource. While some classes have displays which support worship, reflection and discussion, for example the three-dimensional model of the story of Moses in the Early Years department, a more consistent approach in all classes has yet to be developed.

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.

The Headteacher has quickly grasped the most important issues to further develop this good church school. The evaluative process has involved the staff and all governors, with additional input from parents through questionnaires and discussion. The discussions prior to the inspection and the practical help with resources for Worship and RE are examples of this. The learners, too, share their views through the well run School Council. There is a clear sense of purpose amongst the whole school community, which the Headteacher is building upon in new and imaginative ways. She has good support from the staff group, which is now moving on from an unsettled period in the past year.

The Headteacher promotes the Christian principles within the Mission Statement and she celebrates the remarkable commitment of others - such as those who facilitated the wonderful Stone Cross at the entrance. Articles in the Parish Magazine, reports to the Parochial Church Council and facilitating the exchange of displays between church and school are examples of her commitment to a school which has good potential to further develop its Christian foundation.