

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Fishers Mead,  
Dulverton,  
Somerset  
TA22 9EE

#### Diocese: Bath & Wells

LA: Somerset

Dates of inspection: 20 June 2006

Date of last inspection: 10/11 October 2000

School's Unique reference number: 123754

Headteacher: Mr. C. Pope

Inspector's name and number: Mrs. Rosemary Davis 185

#### School context

This is a newly built small village Church of England First School and Nursery set in attractive grounds within walking distance of the church and centre of Dulverton. Pupils travel from a wide area with 30% from isolated farms on Exmoor. There is a wide range of social and economic backgrounds with very few pupils from minority ethnic groups. Pupils starting school are often achieving below age expectations. The school works very closely with the on-site independent Children's Centre. The 105 pupils on roll are grouped into 4 classes but the school is undersubscribed and is facing falling rolls. The governing body has been recently reconstituted.

#### Summary Judgement

This is a good church school that reflects its Christian foundation well. The Christian ethos embedded in its mission statement brings positive values and attitudes to teaching and learning. This effective and distinctive learning environment provides for spiritual and moral growth. The family ethos based on Christian values is one with which pupils, parents, staff and governors are very happy.

#### Established strengths

- The Christian ethos of the school in which all pupils are nurtured and valued
- A strong and productive link with the church, clergy and congregation
- Confident, polite and well-motivated pupils

#### Focus for development

- Develop detailed plans for worship ensuring that each act is of a Christian nature
- Develop a system for recording and evaluating worship
- Develop the role of the governors to monitor and evaluate worship (and RE)
- Develop wider links with the Diocese, national and international Anglican communities

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

The school's distinctive Christian character is good and meets the needs of all learners.

The Christian ethos in this welcoming school is evident in many ways, for example, the care and respect placed on the uniqueness of each individual. The school's inclusive policy supports all cultures and their beliefs are respected and valued.

Academic expectations are founded on a good understanding of pupils' needs and strengths resulting in happy, confident and communicative learners. In an observed RE lesson, pupils were maturely discussing the Five Pillars of Islam. The library has an adequate selection of RE books and Bibles. Learners also benefit from loans from the Diocese such as the Hindu display of pictures and artefacts that provide multi-faith awareness. RE displays throughout the school were good.

The expectations of good behaviour with staff role models encourage pupils to be kind and considerate. Strategies such as the 'Well Done' assembly and rewards for good behaviour have a positive impact on all learners.

Spiritual development is good and Collective Worship provide the learners with strong spiritual and moral guidance. Good use is made of candles and periods of silence to create reflective attitudes to worship and prayer. The pupils enjoy their visits to church.

Parents feel that the school has a special quality that is distinctively Christian providing learners with a strong sense of identity, a caring ethos and a well-rounded education. They appreciate their children's understanding of Christian values that are evident in the care and concern shown for others with different attitudes and opinions.

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

School worship is good and is central to the life of the school. However the day to day impact of worship on pupils is impaired by lack of detailed planning, record keeping and evaluation. A more varied pattern of assemblies would enable children to access worship at an appropriate level for their age and stage of development.

The large hall is used to advantage and allows large scale active involvement Pupils talk positively about their experience of worship and respond enthusiastically to stories and hymns all of which emphasise the relevance to moral issues.

All staff, the Rector and Curate regularly lead worship with occasional visits from the Roman Catholic priest and the Congregational Minister. Major Christian festivals are celebrated in school or in church.

Parents welcome the invitations to the 'Well Done' and Class assemblies and to Church worship and their comments provide evidence of the positive impact of worship on the learners.

#### **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 and Rector contribute significantly to its success as a church school. Their strong and effective leadership ensures that the distinctive Christian character of the school is maintained and developed. There is a clear vision with high expectations based on Christian values. The relationships between all members of the school community are good. At present pupils are informally consulted but would like their opinions heard in a structured manner such as a School Council.

The governors provide good support generally but lack formal structures to record their monitoring role in Religious Education and Collective Worship.

The church community is encouraged to support the school in various ways, for example, listening to learners read and running a church club. This provides learners with good role models of living out the Christian life in practice.

Parents are regularly consulted on matters of current interest and appreciate the 'open door' policy together with the speed and effectiveness with which all staff respond to any concern.