

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Pinewood Drive
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61

Diocese: Newcastle

LA: Northumberland

Dates of inspection: 10th May 2006

Date of last inspection: November 2000

School's Unique reference number: 122297

Headteacher: Mrs C. Bryars

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Jean Mulley

School context

This school is situated on the edge of a private housing estate. It has 179 pupils in main school with 24 in the nursery. The headteacher is currently on sick leave and an acting head is in place. The school has recently had a new extension built on and this should have a very positive impact on the school's development.

Summary Judgement

This is a good school with the vision and the capacity to become an outstanding one. The school recognises its role as a Church of England school and this is well documented in the school SEF and other documents.

Established strengths

There is a calm, quiet atmosphere throughout the school. This is as a result of implicit Christian values, attitudes and expectations. The children are well behaved, polite and courteous. They are secure and happy in their school environment. There are good relationships between the staff and pupils.

Focus for development

Review the system for planning worship to include foundation governors. The school has clear, if implicit, Christian values. It offers pupils many opportunities for Christian experiences e.g. using local church for worship. Further reflection on the link between values and experience could strengthen the school's Christian ethos to make it more distinctive. The Diocese will be able to offer assistance with this. Develop the new R.E. scheme as outlined in the school improvement plan. Governors need to consider how to address concerns of a number of parents who feel a lack of positive communication with the school.

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

The children are happy, well-behaved, polite and welcoming to visitors. This is clearly a school where implicit Christian values such as forgiveness, caring and love are recognised and lived out. Relationships between staff and pupils are good. Children are challenged to succeed within a secure environment. Opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are to be found in many areas of the curriculum and in school life in general. The school has close connections with local Christian churches of various denominations.

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

Worship is well planned and structured with time built in for reflection. Good use is made of Anglican symbolism – there is a worship table with a cross and candles. This, situated in the sanctuary area of the hall forms a very good focal point for worship. The school has links with two local Anglican churches and both of these are used on occasions throughout the church's year. Eucharist is held on a termly basis and pupils are encouraged to take part e.g. readings, prayers. The clergy from both churches conduct worship assembly on a regular basis. The school could benefit from having a link with one specific priest. The school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of other faiths and good evidence can be seen around the school.

How effective is the religious education?

The school is in the early stages of implementing the new Diocesan R.E. syllabus. Key Stage 1 have introduced long and medium term plans which are well detailed and are cross linked to other areas of the curriculum. Implementation of the new syllabus for Key Stage 2 is planned for the Autumn term. In lessons observed pupils

demonstrated a very good knowledge of Bible stories and of the events in the life of Jesus. There are good R.E. displays around the school. Children also have a good knowledge of other faiths and traditions.

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

The leadership and management of this school are good. The acting headteacher has a clear Christian vision for this school. This is supported by staff and governors. The Vicar has very recently taken on the role of chair of governors. Foundation governors are aware of the particular role they have in bringing the church aspect into areas of governance. The headteacher and governors need to be aware of the views of pupils, parents and others so that there is a mutual benefit for the pupils of the school and the local community.

SIAS report May 2006 All Saints C.E. First School Pinewood Drive Morpeth Northumberland NE61