

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Archbishop Cranmer Church of England Voluntary Controlled Community Primary School**

Cranmer Road

Taunton

TA1 1XU

#### **Diocese of Bath and Wells**

LEA: Somerset

SIAS inspection: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Previous S23 inspection: 14/16 March 2000

URN: 123824

Headteacher: Mr Alan Boxer

SIAS Inspector NS 37 : Mrs Daphne Spitzer

#### **Context**

Archbishop Cranmer Church of England Community Primary School is situated in the centre of Taunton. The school mainly serves families from outside its own catchment area and numbers fluctuate considerably from year to year. Continued efforts have been made over recent years to maintain and improve the school buildings and ensure the whole school environment is attractive and appropriate for education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There are 279 children on roll aged from 3 to 11 years. There is a high level of disadvantage amongst the families reflected in those eligible for free school meals and also a significant number of children with learning difficulties and disabilities who receive additional support. Staff turnover is low and reflects a strong commitment to the children by the whole school community.

#### **Summary Judgement**

The school's effectiveness and distinctiveness as a Church of England School is good and is reflected in the strong Christian ethos which permeates all aspects of school life.

#### **Established Strengths**

- There are strong links between the school and the parish church, the foundation governors and local parish community
- The school's vision is rooted in Christian beliefs and values
- The caring and supportive learning environment enables the children to talk about ideas the beliefs

#### **Focus for development**

- Formalise monitoring systems for Collective Worship and RE throughout the school
- Develop and embed assessment procedures for the children's learning in RE
- Provide further professional development for all staff who lead any form of Collective Worship with the assistance of the diocese

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

The school is outstanding in presenting a distinctive Christian character and is highly effective in promoting the development of all the pupils' personal qualities and achievements.

Christian values and beliefs were clearly evident in the Collective Worship observed. The act of Worship focussing on how Christians were helping Tsunami victims contributed strongly to the children's spiritual development. A warm church school family atmosphere was exemplified by the supportive way the children responded to the Golden Award presentations and the way the children spoke very positively about their enjoyment of all aspects of daily school life.

The mission statement "Love God, Love Others, Love Ourselves" relates precisely to Christ's teachings and is a source of inspiration for the whole community  
Parents spoke very highly of the very good relationships witnessed at all levels which was characterised by Christian care and concern for others. Good Christian role models provided by the teachers were recognised and much valued by the children.

The school environment promoted and encouraged spiritual development through the beautiful banners which have totally transformed the school hall into a high quality setting for whole school Worship. There are plans to extend opportunities for spiritual development to the outside environment by the addition of a special garden.

**What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?**

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good. Children clearly enjoyed Collective Worship and felt that it was an important part of the school day. They enter and leave the school hall very quietly showing reverence for the occasion, and attend and participate well. There is a wide range of adults who lead Collective Worship, including the local vicar and members of the local church community during the current inter regnum, all of whom contribute fully to its effectiveness.

Good investment has been made in resources for worship especially in connection with visual aids/ interactive whiteboard technology.

Parents spoke of the children's enjoyment of Worship and how much they felt that the Christian values shared were influencing them. Children clearly enjoyed singing and all children signed as they sang reflecting their communication skills and their concern for others.

Prayers are used from a variety of sources including from a whole school Prayer Book with prayers written by the children. Although the Lord's Prayer is not regularly used in Collective Worship, children were familiar with it and drew personal meaning from the words.

The Bible is used as a good source of inspiration with regular "Bible Challenges." Children talked openly about their own beliefs and had very positive attitudes towards worship.

The impact of Collective Worship would be further enhanced by monitoring and evaluating its delivery, ideally involving a cross section of the whole school community and through widening professional development opportunities of training through the diocese to all staff leading whole school and key stage worship.

**How effective is the Religious Education in the school?**

Religious Education is good. Standards of attainment are high as demonstrated by a discussion with children on a variety of issues involving other faiths as well as Christianity.

Children clearly enjoyed the subject and believed it was of relevance to their lives. For example by learning about the Jewish faith and the Holocaust they understood the need to be tolerant and not racist. They were able to use their knowledge and understanding of the 3 major Western religions to discuss the pivotal role of the city of Jerusalem.

In the RE lesson observed outcomes were of a good standard and the children were clearly excited and engaged by the story of David and Goliath. They also were able to learn the importance of bravery from the story.

RE is very well led by the coordinator who has committed much time, care and enthusiasm to the subject, ensuring that resource provision is good and that the subject is well supported by a Link Governor. The curriculum plans fully support the Agreed Syllabus and teachers plan and assess

learning collaboratively in teams.

However the delivery of RE should be monitored by school leaders and formal assessment procedures developed in order to ensure consistency and progression for the learning of all children.

**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 is good. There is a strong team ethos and the high level of involvement of the Foundation Governors and parish community is a great strength of the school. The school's distinctive Christian vision is enthusiastically promoted by the inspiring leadership of the Headteacher who ensures that Christian values are at the centre of school life.

At the "Breakfast Club", which regularly meets on Fridays, the children eat breakfast and enjoy the company of church members as well as staff. Members of the church community are an integral part of day, selling fruit to the children in morning playtimes. Foundation governors regularly meet with the headteacher to discuss church school improvement issues. They are active on the school's behalf during the current inter regnum in leading Collective Worship. The school and parish church work closely together to mutual benefit and exemplify a Christian community in action.

SIAS Jan 2006 Archbishop Cranmer C of E VC Community Primary School Taunton TA1  
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