

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Burgh-le-Marsh St Peter and St Paul Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Wainfleet Road
BURGH-LE-MARSH
SKEGNESS
Lincolnshire
PE24 5ED

Diocese: Lincoln

LA: Lincolnshire

Dates of inspection: 19th June 2006,

Date of last inspection: 2000

School's Unique reference number: 120566

Headteacher: Miss Sonia Hull

Inspector's name and number: Paulette Bissell 88

School context

St Peter and St Paul Primary School, with a roll of 203 4 – 11 year-olds, serves the town of Burgh-le-Marsh and the surrounding villages, with a small number coming from Skegness. There is an unusually large population of boys and most pupils come from a white British heritage.

Summary Judgement

In terms of its effectiveness and distinctiveness as a Church of England School St Peter and St Paul is satisfactory with many good features.

Established strengths

- The strong sense of a mutually respectful community that operates within a close knit village and church community
- The importance and effectiveness of the collective worship in the life of the school
- The effective partnership of the acting headteacher and Father Terry Steele. This has enabled improvements to take place within a stable atmosphere through a challenging period of time.

Focus for development

- In recent times many distinctively Christian features have been developing. These now need to be consolidated and embedded into the School Improvement Plan so that they may be nurtured and flourish within the life of the school.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners

The challenging, turbulent three-year period from 2003 – 2006 has effectively created a school where mutual respect and support is obvious and appreciated. The Christian values have remained central and identifiable by staff, parents and children

The children and adults in this school community feel well-supported at a pastoral level. Everyone spoken to feels valued and has someone to share difficulties or problems with. They also feel secure as part of the church and village communities. All the groups feel encouraged and supported by Father Terry. This sense of value and support has enabled the staff to develop curriculum areas and collective worship in order to make them more effective.

Staff and pupils alike feel that their contributions are celebrated. Pupils enjoy participating in worship, take responsibility for Jack, the dog, and helping with younger pupils. The School Council is developing and the spiritual needs of pupils are recognised and met well in worship and reflective Religious Education. The strong musical input and the developing programme of cross-curricular activities are creating an exciting learning atmosphere. These good features need to be consolidated through discussion and evaluation by staff and governors in order to maintain this richer, learning climate.

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

The Collective Worship is good in its effectiveness. Pupils spoken to during the inspection say that they enjoy various aspects of worship. Some enjoy 'everything'. The music and singing is a particularly strong feature. Prayer is appreciated as a natural part of the life of the school. So much so that in a distressed situation, one pupil suggested to another that perhaps it would be a good idea to pray to God.

The pupils are aware of the traditions of the Church of England through symbols, the use of the Bible, traditional prayers and services in church for many festivals. The rector is a constant presence in the school and community. Through his ministry Christian pastoral care is something that all understand and appreciate. Pupils also enjoy worship led by the clergy of the local Baptist and Methodist churches. This also supports the feeling that this school is important to the community.

Collective worship is an enormous help in strengthening this school community as every member comes together to celebrate, learn and to pray in a happy, positive way.

The development of pupil-led acts of worship which parents attend, together with the use of music and the projector are good features which have helped create a positive attitude to this special time. Discussion and training for all those involved in the worship and those governors with an oversight would help to embed and develop what is already good. This evaluative process would also help to decide on the appropriateness of some existing practices such as reading the collect. A school Eucharist and more reflective activities might be a future part of the development plan.

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

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of this school as a Church of England school is satisfactory. Despite recent challenging situations the school has maintained a sense of security through the consistent and appreciated support of the rector, Father Terry and the professionalism and sensitive leadership of recent acting headteachers. The present acting headteacher, working closely with Father Terry has heightened awareness of the Christian distinctiveness of the school through good collective worship and discussion with the staff. This needs to be discussed and developed with the governors as part of the school's future Action Plan.

The role of the RE co-ordinator has been encouraged and developed to a stage where scrutiny and monitoring are taking place and assessment is developing. RE has now been well resourced with the acquisition of books and artefacts of various faiths.

A series of visits and visitors to the school has heightened the profile of this curriculum area to a stage where it is impacting positively on the pupils and the cultural life of the school. The encouragement of Father Terry has given the RE co-ordinator confidence to use her skills effectively.

The inspiration, vision and professionalism of the acting headteacher with Father Terry's support has drawn together the many skills of a committed staff to create an atmosphere where teaching and learning are enjoyed. This achievement is substantial in the light of the many difficulties that have faced the school in recent years.

Staff and governors now need to reflect on the many distinctively Christian features of their school in order that they can find ways to strengthen them. This process should enable this Church of England school to become good overall.