

**Cam Hopton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Hopton Road  
Upper Cam  
Gloucestershire  
GL11 5PA

**Diocese of Gloucester**

Gloucestershire LEA  
SIAS inspection: 21 November 2005  
Previous S23 inspection: 12 May 2000  
URN: 115676  
Headteacher: Mr Paul Weekes  
SIAS Inspector NS#009: Chris Hammant

**Context**

Cam Hopton School serves the village of Cam, which is situated close to the town of Dursley in Gloucestershire. The school is located within reasonably easy reach of the parish church of St George. There are seven classes ranging from Reception to Year 6. Children enter the Reception class with attainment levels expected for their age. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties is lower than in most schools. There are a few children from minority ethnic backgrounds. The proportion of children entitled to free school meals is well below the national average.

**Summary Judgement**

Cam Hopton Primary School is an outstanding church school with strong Christian leadership. The Christian ethos is evident in every aspect of school life.

**Established strengths**

- Parents are made aware of the Christian foundation of the school as soon as their children join. Parents generally welcome this and appreciate its benefits.
- There is a close working relationship between all staff based on respect, openness and care for each other in a warm Christian atmosphere.
- The importance and uniqueness of every child as a person made in the image of God permeates every aspect of the life and work of the school.
- There are close links with the parish church as well as an active involvement of the local clergy in worship and academic life of the school.

**Focus for development**

- Together teachers, learners and governors should develop a strategy to record the evaluation of Collective Worship, which is currently based on regular, effective verbal feedback.
- Bring to completion the exciting plans which are in the process of being developed to introduce a school eucharist.
- To seek to provide specific time during the academic year for this extremely committed and hard working staff to focus on developing and enriching their own spiritual lives.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners extremely well. The school makes excellent provision to meet the needs of all its learners. Parents express total confidence in the school to provide a secure and welcoming learning environment within a caring Christian atmosphere. All learners feel valued and special. They understand that respecting others, showing kindness and care all contribute to making school a better and happier place. Learners flourish and fulfil their potential, special help being provided to support those with learning needs or behavioural difficulties. Academic expectation and achievement are high in relation to prior attainment. Whatever their faith, learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent. Spiritual development is a particular focus across the curriculum and provides the bedrock of the school ethos. From the very beginning of their education, children in this school are encouraged to live out Jesus' command to 'Love one another'. Relationships within the school community and with the local church are excellent.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding. Worship occupies a place of vital importance in the life of the school and is a key element in its Christian witness. Acts of Worship are exceptionally well planned by the head teacher, staff and clergy who lead them. They are imaginative and inspiring and there is a high level of pupil and staff participation. Children are eager to respond and very attentive. They have come to expect challenging ideas, happy experiences and quiet moments in their worship and look forward with great anticipation to this positive and enabling start to each day. They enjoy sharing the peace with each other according to the Anglican tradition. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian, whilst also providing for the spiritual and moral development of those of other faiths or none. Clergy visit weekly to lead worship and have built excellent relationships with staff and pupils. Children clearly understand and appreciate the support they receive from the school and collective worship is a key aspect of this.

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

Religious education in the school is good. Religious education is recognised by governors, senior management and other staff as being of particular importance in a church school and the subject's status in the school reflects this. Achievement in relation to learner's backgrounds and prior attainment is good. Lessons provide challenge and interest for learners who in turn respond very positively. They enjoy RE lessons. Standards of attainment are at least comparable with those in the core subjects and monitoring effectively addresses strengths and areas for development. The quality of teaching and learning is good and the subject makes a significant contribution to learners' spiritual and moral development. Whatever their own faith background learners are able to acknowledge the relevance of RE to their own lives. Schemes of work fully comply with the Agreed Syllabus for Gloucestershire and reflect the school's Christian foundation, whilst giving due weight to other faiths.

### **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 outstanding. The head teacher and governors provide exceptionally effective leadership of this church school. They work in close partnership to communicate clearly the school's Christian purpose to parents. In this they are supported totally by all members of the school staff and this is evident in all aspects of school life. Through the active involvement of members of the school choir in church services more families are attending church. There are well-established and highly effective systems for monitoring, evaluating and developing all relevant areas, such as RE, collective worship and spiritual development. Learners and their parents speak appreciatively of the school's Christian ethos, the commitment of the staff to all individuals and the high quality of the education provided. The school enjoys a very close and productive relationship with the local church community. The children share their Christian values when visiting the elderly residents of a neighbouring retirement home.