

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Chilton Foliat Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School,

Stag Hill
Hungerford
Berks
RG17 0TF

Diocese of Salisbury

Wiltshire LEA

SIAS inspection: 6th December 2005

Previous S23 inspection: May 2002

URN: 126397

Headteacher: Mrs. A. Newiadomski

SIAS Inspector NS 112: Mrs. J. Bellamy

School Context

The school is set in the village of Chilton Foliat on the borders of Berkshire and Wiltshire and draws pupils from both counties. It has four classes set within a very pleasant environment.

Summary Judgement

Chilton Foliat Voluntary Aided Primary School is a good school. It is an effective and distinctive Church of England School.

Established strengths

- The caring Christian ethos that permeates all aspects of school life.
- Recognition of the uniqueness and value of every individual.
- The nature of the whole school community is mutually supportive.

Focus for development

In order to move from a good impact to an outstanding impact in Collective Worship the school should:

- Increase pupil participation in worship and involve them more fully with foundation governors in the monitoring and evaluating process for Collective Worship.

In order to move from good to outstanding provision in Religious Education the school should:

- Review the use of the Locally Agreed Syllabus in order to more fully meet the needs of Chilton Foliat Voluntary Aided School.

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

The school makes good provision to meet the needs of all its learners through its strong Christian ethos. It is totally inclusive and there is a strong emphasis placed on developing independence of thought and behaviour. For example, pupils collect the names of volunteers willing to make contributions to the Parish Family Service and within school actively promote efforts to support those less fortunate than themselves in other countries. Pupils are encouraged to make choices based on Christian values and examples. The individuality of each child is celebrated and developed. Good relationships within the school contribute to the pupils' feeling of security. Empathy is a frequently well used tool to enable an appreciation of the different needs, religions and cultures to be found in the wider world. Value and respect for others' beliefs and cultures is constantly being shown and as a result an open and friendly atmosphere flourishes where all are welcomed on equal terms. In this secure environment the pupils' curiosity and excitement of the wider world is being fostered and encouraged. Pupils are well nurtured in the Christian faith through worship, Religious Education and the modelling presented to them of servant-hood, forgiveness and love. These Christian characteristics underpin all areas of school life.

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

The impact of worship is good. Parents enthusiastically acknowledge this. Links with the clergy and parish are excellent. The regular Parish Family Service is inextricably linked with school worship and in this way communication between the two is greatly enhanced. Links are also made between worship to the other curricular areas as well as Religious Education. The themes follow the pattern of the church year, but are sufficiently flexible to allow for current school, national or international issues to be included. In the observed worship, liturgical greetings and Anglican traditions were used to good effect.

Pupils indicated that they are aware that worship gives an opportunity to reflect on aspects of their lives beyond the academic. Furthermore they see it as a means of understanding the concepts of right from wrong and helping them to make informed choices based on Christian teachings.

Worship time is considered by the whole school community to be a vital part of the school day.

Lessons derived from previous worship are continually being reinforced so allowing them to become embedded in the school's culture. There is a variety of approaches to worship used during the school week.

How effective is the religious education?

The Religious Education in school is effective and as a result is of a good standard. As a forward thinking, and continually developing school, Chilton Foliat is looking at ways to further enhance its Religious Education by ensuring greater creativity in the subject and tailoring the scheme of work to ensure that it more successfully reflects the cross curricular culture of the school. Religious Education is recognised by governors and staff as being of particular importance in a church school and an overview of the subject in the School Improvement Plan is the result of their careful reflection, but monitoring and evaluation (by governors and pupils) should be more rigorous.

All teaching seen was either good or very good with a wide variety of presentation. The atmosphere was always positive and pupils had opportunities to reflect on challenging questions in a secure environment. As a consequence, pupils enjoy Religious Education. They have a good knowledge of Christianity and are sufficiently confident to discuss their own faith in relation to other world faith traditions. Outcomes from issues raised in Religious Education lessons are often transferred into other curriculum areas so enabling the Religious Education to be a relevant, vibrant, living subject.

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

The leadership and management of the school are good and contribute significantly to the success of the school as a church school. The school is very well supported by the parish, the Diocese and governors. Matters relating to the church foundation are taken seriously and often discussed at full governors' meetings. The personal commitment of the headteacher and her staff should be commended. Parents are aware that the school is a truly Christian institution where pupils are treated fairly as individuals, given opportunities to flourish spiritually and morally and given every encouragement to reach their full potential in all aspects of school life.

SIAS DECEMBER 2005 Chilton Foliat CE VA Primary School, Berkshire, RG17 0TF