

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Christ Church Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Fletcher Road

Ottershaw

KT16 0JY

Diocese: Guildford

LA: Surrey

Dates of inspection: 16 June 2006

Date of last inspection: February 2000

School's Unique reference number: 125138

Headteacher: Mr Gareth Griffith

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Judith Babb (NSI 139)

School context

Christ Church is a two-form entry junior school, on a semi-rural site, adjacent to a voluntary-controlled infant school. The two governing bodies will form a federation with effect from September 2006. Most pupils live in the immediate area of the school.

Summary Judgement

The effectiveness of Christ Church Junior School as a Church of England School is satisfactory. Thorough self-evaluation, necessary for the imminent federation, is giving the school a renewed sense of how to establish its distinctiveness for the twenty-first century.

Established strengths

- Very good moral development of pupils fostered by some dynamic acts of worship, sound Religious Education, and clear school rules
- Well-behaved pupils who relate maturely to their peers and to adults
- Careful management of the buildings and site creating a welcoming environment

Focus for development

Taking the opportunity of proposed federation with the neighbouring infant school:

- Seek to clarify all aspects of voluntary-controlled status, and to build Christian 'distinctiveness' into plans for the future school
- Set up a co-ordination group with wide membership, to plan, monitor and evaluate all acts of worship

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, makes good provision for the needs of all its learners.

Pupils and parents speak of the school as a welcoming, inclusive, and secure place where pupils feel happy, are generous to others, and want to do well. Careful zoning of classrooms gives pupils and staff a strong sense of identity with their peer groups. There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities, from sport to Xstream Club, enhancing opportunities for all. The well-established school council, and the very good mentoring system, bring together pupils across the age-range, so that they are encouraged to help one another sympathetically. Pupils from ethnic or religious minority groups are fully integrated and provided for well through teaching in Religious Education (including visiting speakers), and acts of worship that give all pupils an insight into religions other than their own. Provision for pupils with statements of special educational need is thorough; their inclusion is total and their progress good. Good work is celebrated in assembly and in classroom displays, thereby instilling self-worth. Spiritual development is good, encouraged by a 'worship and wonder board', so many pupils can reflect sensitively on relevant issues. Moral development is very good, and pupils behave well. Through class discussion, and through 'think sheets', when two parties have been in dispute, they are helped to resolve differences. Relationships amongst staff are positive, and they provide good role models for pupils.

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

Overall, the impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory, with

some good features

Since the last inspection, the school has continued to provide interesting acts of worship that engage all pupils and staff. Some acts of worship are dynamic, and pupils enjoy taking part in lively drama to illustrate the theme. This helps them, irrespective of their faith, to remember the moral of the story very well indeed, and to apply it later in the school day. They understand when to reflect quietly, and when to participate openly as the staff are supportive and lead by example. The prayer-board is one of several artefacts (screen for hymns, crosses, school creed, notices, etc.) at the front of the hall for focus, but not all pupils understand their significance because the wall is crowded. Visiting leaders for acts of worship are welcomed, and pupils appreciate the different styles. Classroom worship is less memorable for pupils. There are a few occasions when parents and governors attend acts of worship, but these are insufficient for pupils to sense the whole community at prayer. The Religious Education co-ordinator keeps a record of themes used, and each class, commendably, has a book of memorable assemblies. The lack of clarity amongst school leaders as to the role of the collective worship co-ordinator hinders systematic forward planning, so pupils, governors, and others, do not always feel they contribute. Insufficient consideration is given to the impact on pupils of different ages, or on how the curriculum is extended through worship. The governing body has yet to appoint a link (foundation) governor for worship.

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 satisfactory. The governors have given some thought to the vision and mission statements. These are supported by aims and objectives, based on Biblical values, and with a reference to 'a Christian approach to life'. Some parents feel that the school could be more explicit about its Christian 'distinctiveness'. The school development plan contains no reference to the Christian character of the school. The school badge does not make Church school status immediately obvious, so pupils have difficulty in describing what is special about their school. On the other hand, a member of the church often leads acts of worship, governors' meetings open and close in prayer, and there is a 'thought for the day' before staff meetings. A member of the church runs a regular 'Christian club' extra-curricular activity. The new vicar is a governor, and she leads acts of worship, and contributes to Religious Education. Self-evaluation as a church school is developing, though it is not as yet widely shared. Some governors are already monitoring the work of departments, but foundation governors do not have specific oversight of spiritual and moral development, collective worship, etc.. There is good contact with the PCC through several governors who are members of the church. Relationships with the diocese are effective.

SIAS report 16 June 2006 Christ Church, Church of England Controlled, Junior School, Ottershaw Fletcher Road Ottershaw KT16 0JY