

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Compton and Up Marden Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Lane

Compton,

Chichester

PO18 9EZ

**Diocese: Chichester**

LA: West Sussex

Dates of inspection: 14 November 2005

Date of last inspection: 20-23 March 2000

School's Unique reference number: 125979

Headteacher: Joan Burnett

Inspector's name and number: Hilary Ferries

#### School context

Compton and Up Marden Church of England Primary School is a small rural school that serves Compton, East Marden and surrounding villages. It is situated very near the parish church with which it has very close links. The strong staff team, led by the headteacher and in partnership with the governing body, are committed to the development of all pupils and provide an exciting curriculum and a high standard of care and guidance for all.

At the time of the inspection there were 68 pupils on roll. This number is due to rise in September when 17 pupils are expected in Reception. In addition to the headteacher there are 4 teachers and 4 teaching assistants.

#### Summary Judgement

Compton and Up Marden is an effective church school. Christian beliefs and values underpin the work and lie behind the ethos statement and aims of the school. There is a strong sense of a school family, where every member is cared for and the high quality of the relationships within the school and the very good opportunities for moral, social and cultural development contribute to the high standards and positive achievement. The school is building on this further by identifying and developing opportunities for spiritual development in every area of the curriculum.

#### Established strengths

- The very inclusive nature of the school where learners' needs are met;
- The very good relationships and the strong family feeling of the school which lead to a very safe and secure environment and enable pupils to develop their potential;
- The governor monitoring of all aspects of school life. This leads to a regular review of worship and the impact it has on pupils as well as the ethos of the school, behaviour and attitudes to learning;
- The very positive relationship with local clergy and church.

#### Focus for development

- To implement the planned work on spiritual development outlined in the School Improvement Plan;
- To consider ways of making worship more central to the life of the school by developing a clear policy, reviewing the use of class worship time and developing the planning for worship to give pupils greater progression and continuity;
- To take into account the views of learners using the newly formed school council.

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

The school makes every effort to develop the full potential of every pupil in all areas of school life. The ethos of the school stresses the importance of valuing each other and for pupils to develop a sense of self worth and this is lived out on a daily basis. The school welcomes pupils from a local special school and integrates pupils successfully. Standards are well above national expectations and the exciting, well planned curriculum enables all pupils to succeed. Learning is greatly enhanced by the social, cultural and moral opportunities offered by the school. The school already has many opportunities for spiritual development and this is a focus for development

in the current School Improvement Plan to formalise this and to identify the spiritual across the curriculum in planning.

All members of staff and pupils speak of the Christian character of the school. Although not obvious through signs and symbols in letterheads, it is apparent in the very good relationships and with the palpable sense of a school family, with Christian beliefs and values underpinning the ethos and aims of the school.  
Grade 1

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

Worship occupies an important place in the life of the school. Individual acts of worship are carefully planned and clergy are regular visitors. Christian festivals are clearly identified in the plan. Pupils are positive about their participation in worship and enjoy the different styles, although some felt that the class assemblies could be further developed. The school has identified the need to develop a worship policy and organise the long term planning to ensure continuity and progression for the pupils. In the act of worship observed there were good opportunities for pupils to reflect and effective use was made of photographs and music which contributed well to the pupils' spiritual development.

Close links with the clergy who lead worship on a weekly basis have a positive impact on pupils' understanding of the Anglican tradition. The school attends the parish church for Christian festivals throughout the school year and these services are well attended by parents and carers. There is a school choir that sings in the church on a regular basis which is one of the strong links between the school and the church congregation.

Grade 2

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

The quality of leadership provided by the headteacher and governors contribute to the effectiveness of Compton and Up Marden as a Church of England school. All aspects of the work of the school are monitored and evaluated by governors who complete reports about what they have seen, how it links to the aims of the school and aspects of the School Improvement Plan and how the school can improve further. These are discussed at governing body meetings. The appointment of two members of staff with qualifications and interest in Religious Education has raised the profile of the subject and of spiritual development. These members of staff are working closely together to deliver the School Improvement Plan and to raise the profile of RE and worship even further. There are strong links with the local church and members of clergy and the congregation are regular visitors to school.

There are good communication channels for parents including very informative newsletters and a website: recently completed parental questionnaires are very positive about the strong sense of a school family and many stress the special nature of the school. The school has just elected its first school council to enable the views of learners to be heard.

Grade 2