

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Copythorne Church of England Voluntary Controlled Infant School

Romsey Rd,
Copythorne,
Southampton
SO40 2PB

Diocese : Winchester

LEA : Hampshire

Dates of inspection : 25 – 26 April 2006

Date of last inspection : 13 – 16 November 2000

School's Unique reference number : 116282

Name of Headteacher : Mrs Cathy Davies

Name of Incumbent : The Revd Neville Jacob

Inspector name: Mr Christopher Hines

Preface

The inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 to report to the governors on the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Church of England schools. The inspection was carried out under contract to the governing body and was undertaken following the Section 5 Inspection 31 January – 1 February 2006.

School Context

Copythorne Infant School is situated on an attractive site on the edge of the New Forest. The catchment area has an above average number of high social class households. There are average levels of pupils with learning difficulties and no children in the school have a statement of special educational needs.

There are currently 78 on roll. There are four full time teachers including the Headteacher. Teachers are supported by 4 classroom assistants. Children are taught in three mixed ability classes. The majority of pupils are white British.

The school was built in 1834 and was granted controlled status under the 1944 Education Act. A further extension to the original building was completed in 1996.

The present Headteacher was appointed in January 2006. Two new members of staff (NQTs) have joined the school in the past year. Under the present head's leadership there is a very clear vision for future development. This vision is shared by the whole school community including the supportive governing body. The Headteacher has also shared this vision with parents, has had formal meetings with them and as a matter of course makes herself available for informal discussion by meeting parents both before and after school. The Headteacher, teaching and non-teaching staff and governors have made positive changes to the school ethos and have clearly articulated plans for future development to which all are committed. There are clear plans to develop pupils personal development which is already good, and these plans are based on Christian values.

The school has a clear and strong commitment to Christian aims. There is a strong link with the local clergy which greatly benefits the school. The distinctive Christian character of the school is continuing to develop. The school has correctly identified via its self evaluation the need to continue to involve children actively in making decisions about school life and their contribution to it. The school has also identified the need to further develop parish links. This is also an area that should be proceeded with.

**Previous Inspection Details
Progress since the last inspection**

Strengths

- The very high quality of the recently developed grounds with the on-going plans for further development.
- The happy, friendly and welcoming atmosphere in the school and its valued place in the community.

Areas for Development

- The governors should agree an Ethos statement for the school and publish it in the prospectus.
- The information in the prospectus with regard to Collective Worship should be documented under its own heading, and enlarged to provide more information for parents.
- A Collective Worship policy should be formulated which reflects more clearly the Christian foundation of the school.
- To encourage all teachers in the leading of worship, whole school in-service training should be considered.

Summary Judgement

Copythorne CE Infant School is currently a good Church School.

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

Overall Grade 2

Strengths

- The school has a warm welcoming happy atmosphere which permeates the whole school site. Pupils feel safe, valued and respected.
- The Christian ethos is good and is clearly reflected in all members of the school community.
- Pupils feel that they are valued and listened to.
- Pupils are polite and engage openly in conversation.
- Pupils are well motivated.
- Pupils clearly enjoy being at the school.
- Pupils adopt healthy lifestyles and the school contributes well to this.

Areas for development

- Proceed with plans to develop pupils understanding of the contribution they make to the school
- Seek to develop further opportunities for pupils to make decisions about school life.
- Develop further opportunities for spiritual reflection throughout the school day.
- Proceed with plans to develop the learning environment at the centre of the school in order to facilitate better interaction between pupils in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

How effective is the worshipping experience provided by the school?

Overall Grade 1

Strengths

- Collective worship plays a central role in the life of the school. It is valued by governors, staff and pupils.
- There are close links between the school and the incumbent,
- Pupils have very positive attitudes to school worship.
- Pupils are actively and enthusiastically involved in collective worship.
- Good use is made of Christian greeting.

- Very good use is made of music, prayer and times for reflection.
- The atmosphere created for the pupils is excellent.
- Worship is used to acknowledge and celebrate achievement.
- Worship is planned thematically taking into account the school's Anglican heritage.

Areas for development

- Identify further opportunity to involve the wider community in worship.
- Introduce a process to monitor and evaluate worship and in particular its impact on pupils spiritual development.
- Seek to further develop links with the parish so that worship is not solely focussed on the incumbent.

How effective is the religious education?

Overall Grade 2

Strengths

- RE is valued as a subject by all members of the school staff.
- RE makes a good contribution to the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development which is itself good.
- The very good quality and range of RE displays around the school.
- Good use is made of the church, not only for worship but also in the teaching of RE.
- The incumbent is actively in working with pupils on RE themes.
- The Headteacher is RE co-ordinator and has a strong desire to develop the subject and has a clear strategy for moving it forward.

Areas for development

- Further develop opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum.
- Ensure that RE has a clear focus in the School Improvement Plan.
- Proceed with plans to develop methods for assessment in RE.
- Seek to ensure that able children are challenged in RE sessions.

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

Overall Grade 2

Strengths

- The Headteacher and governors have a clear commitment to the Christian aims of the school
- The Headteacher and governors have a clear strategy for development the Christian character of the school.
- The school has a clear and strongly based self evaluation strategy.
- The school clearly knows what it has to do to improve, has a clear strategy to implement this and has the vision to put this into practice.
- There is a clear community feel within the school with Headteacher, school staff and governors working closely with pupils and parents.

Areas for development

- Continue to build the team of the new Headteacher, staff and governors.
- Seek to put the excellent vision for improvement into practice.
- Seek to further develop the partnership between the church and parish community.