

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Cornwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School,

Cornwood,
Ivybridge,
PL21 9PZ.

Diocese: Exeter

LEA: Devon

Dates of inspection: February 8th 2006

Date of last inspection: 2000

School's Unique reference number: 113409

Name of Headteacher: Mrs. Sandra Higdon

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number: Jenny Pestrige 153

School context

Cornwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, is pleasantly situated on the edge of a small village. It is housed in both Victorian buildings and modern units, and good use is made of the available space. The 73 learners represent a wide range of social and economic backgrounds.

Summary Judgement

Cornwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, is a good school, confident in its aims, based on Christian values and principles, and supported by a good partnership with the Parish Church and its Parish Priest.

Established strengths

- The emphasis given by the school to creating an ethos where care and the esteeming of others is a priority.
- The leadership and management of the Headteacher and Governors in supporting the Church of England foundation of the school.
- The effective partnership between the school and the Church.

Focus for development

- Review the collective worship monitoring process, to include a more comprehensive pro-forma.
- Increase staff attendance at those acts of worship led by the Parish Priest.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is providing a good level of support with regards to the needs of all learners. Learners are confident and happy which results in the learners' secure sense of self worth, which is also channelled into care for others. The learners benefit from an atmosphere of mutual trust in the school, and this results in a good level of self

confidence. The school is characterised by a calm, self-assured ethos, where staff and learners flourish. Christian values and principles are stated in the aims of the school and form a framework for this ethos. Both parents and Governors speak highly of the level of care offered to those who are vulnerable. Meeting the needs of all individuals is aided by effective practical strategies. Therefore learners feel valued and secure. The opportunities for the development of learners' imagination results in good spiritual development, for example as seen in Reception and Year 1 in tasting Easter food, and as recorded in Year 5 and 6 in a Shabbat meal in religious education. Imaginative and creative teaching is resulting in a high standard of learners' emotional and spiritual response, as seen in poetry, art and textiles. Time given for reflection and discussion in religious education is making a good impact on learners' spiritual and emotional development, and the enthusiastic management of the religious education co-ordinator and the teaching of colleagues, results in the enjoyment of learners in the subject. Relationships, at every level in the school, are effective, supportive and caring. The outdoor environment will be improved by the proposed increase in playground facilities.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. Acts of collective worship, using the Diocesan schemes, supplemented by a range of material, are well planned and provide good opportunities for spiritual development. Learners' attitudes to collective worship are excellent, as is their participation in leading worship, as a direct result of the management of this aspect of the curriculum. Learners are confident to plan and lead an act of worship as seen on the theme of Moses and the burning bush, and their use of visual aids and role play is a result of good teaching. Collective worship has a good status within the school and is supported by a weekly visit by the Parish Priest, reflecting the good, effective partnership between the school and the Church. Opportunities for prayer in worship and before lunch are good, and reflect its Anglican tradition. This forms part of the effective, calm, ordered life of the school. Currently, all staff do not attend all acts of collective worship, which distracts from the centrality of worship in the life of the school. The school makes good use of questionnaires and monitoring sheets, which results in learners' opinions and ideas being incorporated into planning, which is very good practice.

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 good. Learners are enabled to achieve academically, emotionally and spiritually, in addition to developing good social skills. Parents feel included in the life of the school, and the 'open door' policy means that issues are dealt with on the same day. This results in a good level of parental satisfaction with the school. The Headteacher enthusiastically supports the partnership between the Church and the school, for example in welcoming the involvement of the Parish Priest in the planning of collective worship. This results in a Church / school relationship, which is secure and confident, providing a positive opportunity for the development of spirituality, alongside an understanding of the Anglican tradition. The good provision made within and across the curriculum for the creative and expressive arts, such as the Africa Week, provides a wide range of opportunities for the development of the spirit. This results in a very good level of learners' work, for example as seen in poetry. The use of parental and learners' questionnaires in assisting the school's self-assessment is effective, and indicates a high level of satisfaction with the progress and well being of learners.

SIAS Report February 2006 Cornwood Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Ivybridge, PL21 9PZ.