

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Crudwell Church of England Voluntary Controlled School

Crudwell,
Malmesbury,
Wiltshire
SN16 9ER

Diocese of Bristol

LEA: Wiltshire

Dates of inspection: 16 January 2006

Date of last inspection: 1 November 1999

School's Unique reference number: 126319

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Helen Cooper

Inspector's name with NS inspector's number: Mrs Rosemary Bartlett NS 120

Summary Judgement

The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a church of England School is good.

Established strengths

- Pupils are happy, thoughtful and articulate
- The school has strong links with the parish church
- The effective leadership of the headteacher is well supported by the governors

Focus for development

- Review planning for collective worship
- Further develop recording and evaluating of collective worship

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

The school's provision for meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character, is good. The school's caring Christian vision is effectively implemented. Pupils benefit from a curriculum enriched by a good number of well varied after school activities. In religious education pupils develop spiritual, moral and cultural awareness through their study of Christianity and other world faiths. They say: "In RE we have a chance to find our own way" and "I definitely respect people from other religions". As part of the PE curriculum, their physical wellbeing is promoted through weekly aerobics classes. French is taught across the age range. Reflection corners in each class provide a good focus for pupils' personal needs and interests. The school's strong family ethos is evident in the pupils' high level of regard for one another, across the age range. This is clearly evident through pupils' consideration for others and their helpfulness, well illustrated in school lunchtimes. Pupils are actively involved in school life. They respond thoughtfully to a good range of questionnaires from the school. Their comments include: "Teachers always ask our opinions about things" and "Everyone gets a say". A sense of positive purpose is also fostered by the school's good awards system. Pupils take pride in their own efforts and achievements and in those of their "house".

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. Collective worship has a clearly significant place in the life of the school. Pupils demonstrate very thoughtful and responsive attitudes within school worship and in their reflections. These include: "If nobody worshipped in school we wouldn't have contact with God", "It teaches me to forgive, and lots of values" and "If you can tell God it's even better". Pupils are actively involved in worship. They fulfil their role as monitors very well. In addition their attitudes are kindly and helpful. They spontaneously help with the props, and when younger pupils need support during the birthday celebrations. School worship is well managed by the headteacher and foundation governors. A training day attended by staff and governors was held recently to introduce a resource pack on Christian Values. The school now plans to review the overall cycle for worship, and to further develop monitoring and evaluation. There are good

opportunities for reflection within worship. Within these the school is developing well the use of visualisation.

There are close links between school and church worship. The church choir leader has taught pupils the songs used in the church Family Service. The school runs a Bible Buddies club. In RE pupils are being given a good understanding of the Lord's Prayer. The vicar leads an act of school worship each month.

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

Leadership and management of the school as a church school are good. The headteacher was appointed last April and her effective leadership is well supported by the governors. The governors are active in communicating the school's Christian status through the process of staff appointments. The headteacher has a clear Christian vision for the school. This was well illustrated in the Christmas play Hosanna Rock, written by pupils. The script demonstrated a fresh understanding of the significance of the birth of Christ and the performance had a strong impact on the school community. The Christian vision is well supported and implemented by the staff. Staff teamwork ensures that pupils' needs are met. Staff readily combine a variety of roles. Parents find the school very approachable. They are regularly consulted on school developments, as seen in the recent evaluation of homework. The new Pupil Power newspaper provides a good opportunity for the pupils' interests and views to be expressed.

The school has made good progress since the last inspection. Points for development included developing visible signs of the school's church foundation and providing quiet areas in the grounds. These have been well met. The school brochure has been reviewed to explain the school's church status. The school now plans a further review and update of the brochure. The worship policy has been reviewed. Further plans for school worship are given above.

Religious education is well managed and resourced. The appropriate curriculum time is allocated. The school follows the local Agreed Syllabus. RE lessons are monitored and pupils make clear progress.

There are good links with the parish church (see above), and with the local community. The school participates fully in many local events including the annual Strawberry Fair. There are good links with the Diocese and pupils regularly visit Bristol Cathedral.

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