

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Culworth Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

The Green,
Culworth,
Banbury,
Oxon
OX17 2BB

Peterborough Diocese

Northamptonshire LEA

Dates of inspection: 26 and 31 January 2006

Date of last inspection: October 1999

School's Unique reference number: 122019

Name of Head Teacher: Mrs Suzanne Lawrence

Inspector: Mr Richard McNulty NS 188

School Context

Culworth Church of England Primary School has 153 pupils. The catchment area covers five villages. The great majority of pupils are of white British backgrounds and English is their first language. No children take free meals. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs is above the national average. Following a difficult period a new head teacher was appointed just over a year ago. In recent years there has been a large change in staffing.

Summary Judgement

Culworth Primary School is a good Church school. The Christian values on which it is built, help it to provide an ethos with which pupils, parents and staff are very happy.

Established strengths

- The governors, the Head Teacher and staff promote the distinctive Christian character of the school.
- Pupils take a full and active part in collective worship in which there is relevant and meaningful prayer and reflection.
- The School has very positive and supportive links with the church.
- Relationships between all members of the school community are very good and promote very supportively the pupils' social development.

Focus for development

- To continue to develop the school under the excellent leadership of the Head Teacher.
- To continue to develop suitable and rigorous assessment and monitoring of pupils' progress in RE.
- To continue to raise standards in R.E. by focusing on how the children respond to questions of meaning and value.

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

The school makes good provision to meet the needs of all its learners through its strong Christian ethos.

This is seen in the quality of relationships between staff, parents and children and in their commitment to school improvement. Parents speak with enthusiasm of the excellent atmosphere in the School which underpins everything that the School aspires to. Children's own views and their understanding of issues affecting the School are fully valued through the School Council.

The Head Teacher's personal philosophy, commitment and drive make for leadership which is appreciated and valued by all concerned and connected with the school.

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

Collective worship has a good impact on the school community.

Acts of worship are well planned and leaders make good use of resources including those available on the internet. Collective Worship is very well supported by the local vicar who is known to all members of the school community. He leads worship in school on a weekly basis. Teachers and support staff attend and most teachers are involved in leading worship. As a consequence of this commitment and effort, pupils speak very positively about the experience and value of collective worship. They enjoy the opportunities it affords them for active participation as well as reflection and prayer. They are enthusiastic about singing in worship. There is a consistent focus on Christianity at an appropriate level which pupils understand. Parents speak of feeling genuinely welcome. Governors visit collective worship and value the experience.

How effective is the religious education?

Religious Education is satisfactory and developing.

The Northamptonshire RE syllabus has been recently introduced into the school. All members of staff have played a part in this. The co-ordinator is very enthusiastic and keen to see this further established. He is aware of local resources and uses the expertise of the Vicar and parents. He is planning to develop monitoring and assessment. Pupils speak with enthusiasm about their learning in religious education. They understand that the teaching is relevant to them. In one lesson the syllabus was well planned but the opportunity for the pupils to reflect and respond was slightly rushed and included material that was not completely age appropriate. A second lesson observed was excellent. The children were very keen to complete the required work which was well thought out and presented. At the conclusion of the lesson the children were given the opportunity to reflect on what had been experienced in an appropriate way.

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 are good.

The Head Teacher and governors play a full part in promoting the Christian character of the school.

Governors have a good knowledge of the work of the school and there is a link governor for Collective Worship and Religious Education. The Vicar is a governor and a regular visitor to the school.

Pupils are fully aware of the Christian character of the school and respond to teachers who are fully committed to its character with good behaviour. They respect the work of other pupils.

Excellent leadership is given by the Head Teacher but she lacks the support of a deputy. The Governors are very aware of the extra burden this places upon her and are exploring a variety of approaches to address this.