

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Danehill Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Lane
Danehill,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex
RH17 7JB

Diocese: Chichester

LA: East Sussex

Dates of inspection: 4 July 2006.

Date of last inspection: March 3rd-6th 2000

School's Unique reference number: 114499

Headteacher: Heather Hurst

Inspector's name and number: Laura Cooper 388

School context

Danehill Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is a small welcoming school with 86 pupils on role, organised into 4 classes in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. The majority of pupils come from the immediate village area of Danehill and nearly all are from White British families.

Summary Judgement

Danehill Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is an outstanding church school, characterised by excellent relationships and a happy, caring Christian ethos. The school is an integral part of the village community. Its Church status underpins all that it does.

Established strengths

- The Christian ethos of the school promoted by the headteacher where all are nurtured and valued highly.
- The valuable contribution that collective worship makes to the pupils understanding of Anglican traditions
- The strong sense of community enhanced by the good links between the school, church and local community.

Focus for development

- To raise the profile of the school's distinctive Christian character further by putting
- Christian principles at the heart of all school policies as they are reviewed.
- To creating an overarching spiritual, moral, social and cultural development policy which integrates all curriculum subjects.
- To formalise the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship.

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

The schools Christian character is reflected in the outstanding relationships that exist throughout the school. Christian values are evident in the quality of care provided for individuals within the school whether pupils, parents or staff. Pupils are happy, polite and confident. They feel safe and help each other behave well by 'being a good example'. Pupils stated that the best thing about the school was 'the teachers'. The buddy system and class councils allow pupils to contribute to the development of the school. Displays, publicity and contributions to the parish magazine enhance the distinctive character of the school. It is expected that the distinctiveness of the Christian character of the school will be made explicit in all policies as they are reviewed. There is a strong emphasis on pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness but no specific policy. Older pupils are given opportunities to consider Christian values and explore spirituality e.g. 'faith discussions' where a member of the church visits the pupils to answer questions about their beliefs. Those with undecided faith appreciate the opportunities given to them to develop their understanding of 'what it means to be a Christian'.

Learners of all types flourish and fulfill their potential achieving high standards, whatever their individual needs or their gifts and talents. The school makes excellent provision for meeting the needs of all its pupils.

Grade: 1

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

Collective worship is central to the life of the school and is good.

Older children are responsible for preparing the hall for worship. Pupils demonstrate positive attitudes, they respond enthusiastically to questions and sing well. They sing responses to prayers led by other children. Prayer plays an important part in the worship of the school, instilling Christian values and following Anglican traditions. Prayers are said at lunchtime and at the end of the day. There is a parent prayer group.

Parents are invited to a celebration 'assembly' at the end of the week. Parents state they find their participation in the corporate worship of the school a 'positive and meaningful experience'. Pupils' comments make it apparent that assemblies help them to think about and reflect on personal problems such as sadness, 'as well as God'. The use of the church for key services during the year and as a resource further enhance the quality of provision. Worship led by the youth worker and clergy are enhanced by a good range of resources and visual aids including the use of ICT. Collective worship is planned by the headteacher, the vicar and other staff. Collective worship is reviewed on a termly basis and monitored informally by the headteacher.
Grade: 1

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

The leadership and management of the school are outstanding on many different levels. It is apparent that the success of the school is due to the careful management by the headteacher of participants, policies and resources. The quality of the leadership provided by the headteacher contributes greatly to the schools success. There is a real feel that the headteacher knows each individual within the school and she is respected and admired.

The leadership provided by the headteacher and governors is overtly Christian but inclusive of other beliefs. There is close positive engagement with the church and wider community. Governors work well with the headteacher and are supportive of the school.

The headteacher in consultation with others should be commended in beginning to identify areas for future development through using the diocesan self evaluation toolkit. The leadership team has been able to demonstrate through effective self review that it knows the strengths of the school and is able to identify particular areas of focus such as improving the quality of monitoring of worship.

There is a close relationship between the headteacher and vicar which contributes to its success. The vicar is involved in the life of the school not just as vicar but also as a parent and governor. He is supportive and rightly proud of the school. Parents and children are very happy with the school and value its church status as an integral part of its provision. The team work amongst the staff is effective in ensuring that there is a shared commitment to the care of all pupils.
Grade: 1