

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Dereham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

St Withburga Lane

Dereham

Norfolk

NR19 1ED

**Diocese: Norwich**

LA: Norfolk

Dates of inspection: 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Date of last inspection: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2000

School's Unique reference number: 121195

Headteacher: Mrs Karen Gay

Inspector's name and number: Dr Anne Bauers 409

#### School context

Dereham Church Infant School and Nursery is located in the market town of East Dereham. It serves the families of East Dereham. It also draws children from surrounding villages. There are currently 52 children on roll in the nursery. These are aged between three and four years, and attend part time. In the infant school, there are 167 children on roll aged between four and seven. In addition to the headteacher, there is a deputy headteacher. There are six further full-time teachers, one part-time teacher and three higher level teaching assistants. The infant children are taught in six classes.

#### Summary Judgement

Dereham Church Infant School and Nursery is a good school. It has a very strong Christian ethos which permeates all aspects of school life and has a very positive impact on the children. Provision for worship and religious education is good and the management of the school as a church school is very effective.

#### Established strengths

The school has been especially successful in establishing a strong Christian ethos which is clearly evident in all aspects of the life and work of the school. The impact of collective worship is also apparent not only during times of prayer but throughout the school day. The school has already implemented the new agreed syllabus for religious education and the effects of this are beginning to show positive results. The headteacher and subject leader provide strong leadership which generates enthusiasm and commitment from staff and children alike. The school's self evaluation is thorough and perceptive. It provides an excellent basis for continued improvement.

#### Focus for development

The school should implement the areas for development highlighted in the self-evaluation schedule. It should focus particularly on the impact of the new agreed syllabus and assessment arrangements on children's attainment and progress.

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

The school makes excellent provision to meet the needs of all its learners. Staff take very positive steps to ensure that all children, including those with special needs or for whom English is an additional language feel special and valued. Imaginative and innovative teaching enables the children to make very good progress and their academic achievement is high in relation to their prior attainment. Provision for the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is likewise outstanding. Relationships among the children and among adults are warm and supportive. The evidence of Christian care and concern for others is exemplary.

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

Worship occupies an important place in the life of the school and permeates all other aspects of its life and work. Acts of worship are well planned and exploit a wide range of approaches to stimulate and inspire the children. Members of the parish team, headteacher, staff and other adults as well as the children themselves regularly

participate in leading worship. The children's response is very positive. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian and honours the Anglican tradition. There are very good links with local church, especially through the contribution of its staff. The provision is sensitive to the needs of children who may not come from Christian families. It effectively supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all the children.

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

The leadership and management of the school are good. The quality of leadership has a strong impact on the school. Its Christian purpose is clearly expressed, for example, in the mission statement, brochure and in written policies. Governors are appropriately involved with the headteacher and staff in promoting and monitoring the Christian dimension of the school's life. There are strong, fruitful links with the local church community, for example, through frequent services held in the Parish Church not only when there is a special festival but throughout the year. Staff and children alike feel valued and involved. Relationships are warm and supportive. Parents are closely involved with the school through, for example, 'keeping up with your children' and 'healthy eating' sessions. Such opportunities enhance the links between home and school and are valued by parents, staff and children alike.

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Dereham Norfolk NR19 1ED