

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Dyson Perrins Church of England Voluntary Aided High School

Yates Hay Road

MALVERN

Worcestershire

WR14 1WD

Diocese: Worcester

LA: Worcestershire

Dates of inspection: March 2006

Date of last inspection: November 1999

School's Unique reference number: 116995

Headteacher: Mr D Griffin

Inspector's name and number: Mr A S Brown No.256

School context

Dyson Perrins Church of England School is a Voluntary Aided High School with 976 students on roll aged between 11-19 years. There are few students from minority ethnic backgrounds and there is a provision for students with autism and other educational needs. The new Headteacher was appointed from September 2005 and the Head of the RS Dept was appointed from January 2006. Major building work is in progress.

Summary Judgement

Dyson Perrins School is a satisfactory Church of England school with some good features. The Christian ethos is present but understated and it needs to underpin all policies and practical outcomes with an Anglican inclusive vision. The School Prospectus requires an unequivocal statement of the Christian vision of the School for parents, students and staff. The leadership team has a vision of what the School can become but that needs to be vigorously put into effect. Dyson Perrins is friendly and welcoming with students speaking warmly of the School and the staff and there are very good relationships in the School. The role and function of the Chapel has to be addressed in the immediate future.

Established strengths

- The willingness and commitment of the leadership team to raise the quality of spiritual provision within the School.
- The very good relationships within the School and the School's concern and care for its students.
- The enthusiasm and commitment within the Religious Studies Department.
- The charitable activities in which the School is involved.

Focus for development

- To establish a Christian rationale for the School as a basis for all policies.
- Ensure a statement about the inclusive Christian nature of the School is clearly stated in the prospectus.
- To use the Chapel to greater effect.
- To provide improved opportunities for appropriate worship and spiritual development across the School.
- To provide greater rigour and challenge in Religious Education.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners in a satisfactory manner

Dyson Perrins has a character that is Christian but is critically understated. The School has already embarked on a process whereby it will re-affirm the importance of worship and include more students and a range of staff into its planning. The School must also review the use of the Chapel and its focus for the spiritual life of Dyson Perrins. All staff, of all faiths and none, need to be encouraged to identify the contribution they and their subject areas can make to the spiritual life of the students. The students speak very highly of the School, its friendly atmosphere and the very good relations with staff.

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

The impact of collective worship on the learners is satisfactory
Worship in Dyson Perrins School is satisfactory. Worship plays an insufficient role in the life of the School though students note its recent improvement. There has been a welcome move by staff to develop a more effective and improving system but students need to be involved in planning and practise at all stages and in all years. The Chapel is in urgent need of refurbishment, something in which students could be involved, and should assume a central focus in the School community. A place must be found for the regular celebration of the Eucharist. Staff must be given confidence to lead worship and share more willingly in the Christian and spiritual life of the School. Clergy visit Dyson Perrins regularly and their interests and expertise needs to be harnessed to support the Christian ethos of the School as well as staff and students. No pupils are withdrawn.

How effective is the religious education?

The religious education is good
Religious Education is well organised and well resourced although the teaching rooms are small and cramped. There are no interactive whiteboards. Students like RE and work effectively; but some of the work needs to be more rigorous and offer a greater challenge to the learners. Marking should include greater diagnostic analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the work so students can identify what they need to address. Relationships in the classrooms and the quality of teaching observed were both good. The new Head of Department requires support to enable her to carry out a critical audit of the strengths and weaknesses of the Department.

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
The Headteacher and leadership team have already identified accurately what the School needs to do to address the concerns of the inspection. They have a vision of where the School has to be in the next 3-5 years. They, with the Governing Body, have to ensure that appropriate and practical steps are taken to achieve that vision. These must now be addressed with imagination, commitment and urgency. The Governing Body must take the initiative and support the leadership team if the School is to reach its objective of becoming an outstanding church school.

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