

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

East Harptree Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Church Lane
East Harptree
Bristol BS40 6BD

Diocese of Bath and Wells

Bath and North East Somerset Council LEA

SIAS inspection: 22nd November 2005

Previous S23 inspection: 28th February – 1st March 2000

URN: 109190

Headteacher: Ms Carol Wheatley

SIAS Inspector NS#80: Mrs Jacqueline Waters-Dewhurst

Context

This is a small school. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds and come from privately owned houses in the three villages and surrounding area. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities is below average. Standards attained by children who start school vary from year to year, but usually show them attaining above the expected level on leaving the school. The school is housed in well kept, Victorian buildings opposite the church. Space is used creatively to provide a productive learning environment for the pupils. There is no school hall or playing field which causes some difficulties for staff and pupils.

Summary Judgement

The school's effectiveness and distinctiveness as a Church of England School is good. There is a real sense of Christian values and community running throughout the school. People from all areas of the school community understand what it is that makes their school special.

Established Strengths

- Very good relationships between adults and children reflect the strong Christian ethos of the school
- The content and range of collective worship in the school provides good opportunities for pupils spiritual development and is enjoyed by the pupils who understand its relevance to their lives and the life of the school.
- Community and church links are strong with regular and imaginative opportunities for children to learn and experience their place in these communities

Focus for development

- Collective worship needs to be recorded more effectively to ensure everyone knows the various aspects of each theme covered
- A section developing the Church Foundation needs to be included in each years School Development Plan.
- Planning for the good RE teaching and learning seen needs to make more evident links with opportunities for learning in the agreed syllabus and include more detail for weekly activities.

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

The school is good at meeting the needs of all its learners.

Standards are generally above the expected levels for pupils of their age and national test results are above average. Staff work hard to ensure that all children feel valued and included. Christian values underpin the work of the school and children learn to be inclusive and accepting of those with different needs to their own. All successes are celebrated appropriately. For activities such as the tree dressing pupils have the opportunity to work in vertical groups thus fostering the ability to help and support each other.

The school has a strong tradition of music and provides financial help to ensure that all children who want to learn an instrument may do so. Good provision is made for gifted and talented pupils. Examples were seen of teachers valuing the contributions of individual pupils in lessons and using pupil's comments to extend and support the learning of the individual as well as others in the class.

Pupils were able to explain that "Teachers keep reminding you that not everyone's the same so you're all special." Pupils initiate and take responsibility for the care of others in the community including their peers and adults.

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

The impact of collective worship is good.

Pupils were able to talk at length and with enthusiasm about their favourite acts of collective worship and were able to talk about the people who led them. They liked those which linked into the rest of the curriculum eg the theme on special people that linked with some homework. Pupils realised the importance of the teaching to every day life "We try to keep them (*things learnt in collective worship*) always with us."

Collective Worship reflects the life of the local, church and wider community. During one act of worship parent came to talk about a fund raising walk up Mt Kilimanjaro which resulted in the whole school community raising funds for a children's home. Regular visitors from the church lead the worship as well as the head and other members of the teaching staff. Children have been able to form good relationships with these visitors which has increased their knowledge and experience of the Christian church and those who belong to it.

How effective is the Religious Education in the school?

Religious Education in the school is good.

RE follows the locally agreed syllabus 'Awareness, Mystery and Value' and contributes to the spiritual and moral development of the pupils and the overall ethos of the school. Children in Key Stage 2 were enthusiastic about their topic on Hinduism and their visit to the Hindu temple in Bristol. Children in Key Stage 1 benefitted from a cross curricular approach to the teaching about Noah that added to their understanding of the story. Pupils were confident enough in both key stages to voice their own thoughts and beliefs which were commented on positively by staff. Time should now be given to develop teacher's detailed planning to ensure that the RE coordinator can effectively monitor teaching and learning across the school.

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.

Support of the Christian foundation by the head and governors is good with foundation governors along with the rest of the governing body able to ensure that the church foundation remains at the heart of the school. Teaching and non teaching staff are involved and appreciated and relationships between all members of the school community are good. Parents feel that the school has a special quality that enables them to "Trust that you can leave them (our children) and any problems will be sorted out." Most school policies refer to the schools Christian values and explicit reference to the church foundation is found in school documentation as well as in displays around the school. The head and governors work together to ensure that the vision of the school is seen in practice. A "Vision" day is to be held on 9 January 2006 to which all staff and governors as well as ex governors and regular supply teachers are invited. The quiet, encouraging leadership style of the head leaves parents feeling very confident of her abilities and those of all the staff to provide for the needs of all pupils. The commitment of the head to the school, its staff, pupils, families and community contributes to the real sense of family that is at the heart of the school.

SIAS NOVEMBER 2005 East Harptree CE VC Primary School, Bristol BS40 6BD