

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Eckington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

School Lane  
ECKINGTON  
PERSHORE  
Worcestershire  
WR10 3AU

**Diocese: Worcester**

LA: Worcestershire

Dates of inspection: 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2006

Date of last inspection: 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2000

School's Unique reference number: 116806

Headteacher: Mrs Chris Millward

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Ann Capell, 197

#### **School context**

Eckington is small rural First School with 87 pupils aged between 4-10 and serving mainly two neighbouring villages in the south of Worcestershire. It has recently benefited from extensive new building work adding to the traditional 19<sup>th</sup> century building. The school now provides high quality accommodation and is very well equipped to meet the needs of its pupils.

#### **Summary Judgement**

Eckington school is a very good school with an ethos of Christian care and commitment at the heart of its work. The Headteacher leads a team of able and dedicated staff which, supported effectively by governors and parents, provides a high quality education for pupils within the framework of the Christian faith. All learners feel valued and special and the relationships within the school reflect this. As a consequence attitudes to learning are very positive and behaviour is exemplary. Pupils, parents, staff and governors speak positively about the Christian foundation of the school which they regard as a strength.

#### **Established strengths**

- The outstanding care and support for all learners based on the school's Christian values.
- Very good relationships within the school through which pupils are encouraged to accept responsibility for their own actions and take account of the needs of others.
- The leadership of the Headteacher and the commitment of the staff, effectively supported by governors.
- The well established and strong links with the local parish church.
- The high regard with which the school is viewed as a vital part of the local community.

#### **Focus for development**

- Continue the development of the recently formed 'Worship Team' in planning and evaluating worship.
- Give consideration to a more varied approach to music within worship.
- Allow opportunities for sharing the outstanding features of class worship in KS1 across the school.

#### **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 Very Well.

Prayer is at the centre of the school both for staff and learners. Pupils are encouraged to write their own prayers and these are produced into class prayer books which are used each day. Very good opportunities are provided for learners to explore their own feelings and be sensitive to the feelings of others, for example, in 'Circle Time'. As a consequence spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent. The achievement assembly focuses on learners who have been kind and

helpful or sensitive to the needs of others. The views of learners are regularly sought through the school council, class discussion and questionnaires. Parents speak positively of the school's exploration of other cultures, beliefs and practices which include visits to a mosque and the celebration of Dwali. The school's rural setting provides many opportunities for exploring the beauty of God's creation and it uses it to the full providing a focus for spiritual development. The school is fully involved with its local community, contributing to fund raising for local causes and internationally to such projects as 'Make Poverty History'. GRADE 1

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

The Impact of Collective Worship on the Learner is Good.

Worship occupies a central place in the school and is an important element in its Christian witness. The school has recently formed a 'Worship Team' and this is contributing significantly to an improvement in the planning and evaluation of worship. Formal and informal evaluation of worship takes place with learners' views being sought, principally through the school council. Further opportunities should be encouraged for learners to evaluate and offer suggestions for worship. The 'Worship Team' has responded successfully to concerns expressed by parents about the non-Christian themes of some class led assemblies. Resources have been developed and a specific worship budget is set by the governors. Further consideration should now be given to the widening of the use and type of music in worship. The weekly achievement assembly is very well supported by parents and carers and evokes a positive response. The excellent class assembly ideas in use in KS1 provide a good basis for widening the scope of class assemblies across the school, offering enhanced opportunities for the reflection and spiritual growth of learners. GRADE 2

**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 Very Good.

The Headteacher and foundation governors strongly promote a distinctive Christian vision for the school. The recently updated mission statement puts the Christian ethos at the forefront of the school's work. Class displays provide distinctive and high quality evidence of the Christian ethos and the inclusive nature of a church school's provision for its learners. It is a tribute to the close partnership which the school enjoys with the local parish church that, during an interregnum, close and productive links are maintained with the church community through parish newsletter, staff contact and services for the learners and their parents and carers in the parish church. Recently the Headteacher has been involved in the selection process for a new Vicar. The staff are very supportive of the school's Christian ethos. A prayer meeting is held for staff each week and is well attended. Prayers are displayed prominently in the staff room and around the school and the Christian foundation of the school is explicitly mentioned when appointing staff. Parents speak of the whole staff positively, but not overbearingly, promoting the Christian ethos and the sense of community. The school supports Diocesan events and makes good use of resources. Learners benefit from the way in which the multifaceted nature of the church is shown through visits, and links with overseas projects. GRADE 1