

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Elm Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Main Road,  
Elm,  
Wisbech,  
Cambs  
PE14 0AG

**Diocese: Ely**

LEA: Cambridgeshire

Dates of inspection: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006

Date of last inspection: 10<sup>th</sup> November 1999

School's Unique reference number: 110800

Name of Headteacher: Mr Chris Child

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number: Mrs Marion Betts 220

#### Summary Judgement

The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England School is good.

#### School Context

Elm school is a one form entry primary school serving the local village community. Nearly all pupils are from white British families, the others coming from traveller, Indian and Caribbean backgrounds. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties or disabilities is average but more pupils have a statement of special educational need than other schools of this size.

#### Established strengths

- A high emphasis is given to the value of each individual within the school community. Pupils are secure, happy and well cared for.
- Collective Worship is very effective in promoting the distinctive Christian vision of the school.
- Relationships within the school community are characterised by Christian care and concern for others.

#### Focus for development

- To make more explicit the Christian foundation of the school by reference to this fact in documentation, within displays around school and by more proactive communication of this to the whole school community.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character makes good provision to meet the needs of all its learners, including those of other faith backgrounds and those who have special educational needs. Pupils from all groups feel valued and special. Pupils make good progress throughout their school life. Pupils are involved in decision making through the school council. Relationships and respect between all staff and children are good and demonstrate the school's Christian context. Robust policies are in place to support children through periods of difficulty. Pupils are confident and enjoy their school life. Success is celebrated regularly. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good.

#### What is the impact of Collective Worship on the School Community?

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. The worship programme fulfils statutory requirements. A retired vicar, the headteacher and the teachers are all involved each week in leading worship. These sessions are well planned, imaginative and promote and explain the Christian values seen in action in school life. Christian based hymns are used in worship. Worship evokes a positive response from the pupils who are given time to reflect on the theme and its application to their lives. Pupils enjoy worship sessions and are given opportunities to contribute their ideas and thoughts. The school celebrates many of the major Christian festivals by the whole school being present at services at the local church. Pupils are involved in delivering the liturgy. Parents are invited and usually attendance is good. The school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of those of other faiths and of none.

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

Leadership and Management of the school as a church school are good. The headteacher provides very effective leadership which contributes significantly to the Christian vision of the school. The self-evaluation of the school as a church school is secure and comprehensive. At present improvement plans for worship are not included in the whole school development plan. There is no mention in school documentation of the Christian nature of the school as an Anglican foundation. Neither are there any explicit signs around the school building to indicate this. Staff however understand and implement the school's expectations for their roles in this Christian community. Links with the local church are demonstrated by the jointly run annual village fete. Pupils are aware of the school's link with the church. They raise money regularly for charities. The school's partnership with the local community is good demonstrated by the headteacher and governors being instrumental in providing a permanent building for community activities on the school site.

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