

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Elworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Lane,
Elworth,
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW113HU

Diocese: Chester

LA: Cheshire

Dates of inspection: 19th May 2006

Date of last inspection:

School's Unique reference number: 111256

Headteacher: Mr. T. Egley

Inspector's name and number: Mrs. Elizabeth M. Smith.

School context

Elworth C of E Primary is a popular average sized primary school set in the village of Elworth near Sandbach in Cheshire. Pupils are drawn from predominantly private housing with others coming from social home projects. A considerable amount of pupils are drawn from out of the school catchment area.

Summary Judgement

Elworth C of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a good church school with some outstanding features. There is a strong commitment to the development of the whole child within the school community. The distinctive Christian ethos impacts in a positive way with Christian values underpinning the work of the school. The school enjoys strong leadership from the headteacher who is supported by a dedicated governing body.

Established strengths

- Very strong and productive relationships with the Church and the local community.
- Outstanding leadership of the headteacher supported by dedicated Governors.
- A strong emphasis on the spiritual and moral development of the pupils.
- A positive culture of praise, support, love, care and trust.

Focus for development

- Raise the profile of worship in the school community.

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

Elworth School is outstanding in meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character. Christian distinctiveness is promoted strongly by the headteacher and hard working staff. This is explicit in discussion, documentation and the outward signs of children's work on display in classrooms and the public areas of the building. The children are proud of their school and were very comfortable when talking about spiritual matters. Very good relationships at all levels and teacher's knowledge of individual pupil's needs engender good attitudes to learning, positive behaviour and a strong sense of community in the school. A culture of commendation and praise positively reinforce this good behaviour. Every one spoken to during the inspection felt proud to be part of the school and was appreciative of its Christian status. Pupils feel secure and valued. The older pupils possess a sense of responsibility, which they take seriously. School council members spoke about their whole school charitable work. They discussed how they provided practical help for the welfare of the younger pupils and children with learning disabilities. The pupils spoke about their participation in Church and the wider community happenings. The whole school community shows a responsibility and sensitivity to the needs of others.

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

Collective worship has a good effect on the school community. Acts of collective worship are well planned and executed using whole school, class and at times keystage formats. Pupils participate in all the major Christian Festival Services. Parents are invited to attend these and special acts of worship. No pupils are withdrawn from worship. When possible all staff employed in the building attend. The regular participation and leadership from the clergy is effective in bringing Anglican and sometimes evangelical traditions to the act of worship. The children talk positively about their experiences of worship and understood the need for quiet times

and reflective prayer. The children listen respectfully and join in enthusiastically. An atmosphere of calm expectation is apparent in an environment that is well organised and peaceful. Live music provided by the pupils and children helping to deliver the worship promotes ownership. The children sang with pleasure and are familiar with a wide range of Christian hymns and songs. Strategies to enhance the distinction between collective worship and assembly need to be developed. This will raise awareness and increase the impact of worship on the school community.

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 outstanding. The headteacher's Christian role model along with his strong leadership of this Church school is greatly valued by the whole school community. He ensures a good Christian education is provided for all children and has high but realistic expectations of achievement of the pupils in his care. Staff and the governors work closely, enthusiastically and effectively to maintain the distinctive Christian character of the school. The adults in the building feel supported in their work. The pastoral care provided by Clergy from the Parish Church of St. Peter's is strong and appreciated by the school community. There is a warm friendly but purposeful atmosphere that permeates the building. Parents spoke appreciatively of the school's ethos, the dedication of the staff and the high quality of pastoral care and education provided. The positive responses of parents, the school council and the staff are indicative of the high regard that is felt for the leadership of the school. The headteacher through dynamic, practical, sustainable planning and good working relationships is able to push forward his vision for the school's future.

May 2006 SIAS report Elworth C.E. Primary School, School Lane, Elworth, Sandbach Cheshire CW113HU