

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Flore Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

The Avenue,
Flore,
Northampton.
NN7 4LZ.

Diocese – Peterborough.

Local Education Authority – Northamptonshire.

Dates of inspection – Wednesday 7th June 2006.

Date of last inspection – November 1999.

School's Unique reference number – 121970.

Name of Headteacher – Mrs Jan Stoppani.

Inspector: Mr John Riches (NS 158) assisted by Mrs Hilary Spenceley (NS 370).

Context.

The School lies at the heart of the village of Flore four miles west of Northampton. Its age range is 4 – 11. The oldest part of the building dates back to 1852 with further additions in 1974. A *Seed Challenge Initiative* provided yet more extensions in 2004. The 110 pupils on roll come from generally supportive homes and live primarily in Flore and neighbouring Brockhall and Weedon. There are no statemented children. Free school meals take-up is zero. All pupils have English as their first language.

Summary Judgement.

Flore School provides a good Christian education through its excellent ethos, outstanding caring environment and strong links with the parish church and local community.

Established strengths

- The School is outstanding in meeting the needs of its learners.
- A strong Christian ethos that guides the School.
- Good leadership from Governors, Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher.
- Good school worship that is supported by the Parish priest, local Evangelist and Flore United Reformed Church.

Focus for Development

- Governors to appoint a single foundation member of the board to oversee the delivery and evaluation of Religious Education.

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

Outstanding.

The school makes outstanding provision for the needs of all its learners. Personal relationships within the school are excellent. Adults act as excellent role models and provide help for younger children who need emotional support. The curriculum is exceptionally well planned, delivered and monitored. The school assumes that every child has talent. A wide range of extra-curricular activities is offered. The school's strong Christian values and aspirations for its pupils ensure that children are made to feel special as individuals. Children are very caring. At breaks Year 6 children were observed interacting well with younger pupils. Children's concerns are raised at circle time and are passed to the School's Council for consideration and action. The Parish priest is fully involved with the life of the school. She leads worship and provides pastoral assistance. A Parish Evangelist gives support. The school is excellent at supporting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of its learners. Studies of non-Christian cultures have resulted in a partnership with a multi-cultural school in Wellingborough and Jewish speakers, Caribbean steel bands and African drumming being introduced to pupils. Charities are enthusiastically supported. An

Ethiopian child receives regular financial assistance through the auspices of the Northampton based charity *World Vision*. A *Healthy Schools Award* has been received recently. The school is one of only nine nationally to have had pupils' work displayed at the National Gallery in a recent exhibition. The parish church, village and local environment are utilised to enhance spiritual development. The church building is used well as a teaching resource. A long-standing village May Day Festival is enthusiastically supported. There are good links with older people in the community.

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

Good.

The impact of Collective Worship is good. There are strong links between the school, parish and United Reformed churches. A daily act of worship is held. A two years cycle of themes guides worship leaders. These include topics relating to the Old and New testaments, faith in action and other major world religions. There are many Christian artefacts in the school plus high quality displays on religious themes. Children's attitudes to worship are positive. They answer questions with enthusiasm. They state that they particularly like regular school services held in the parish church. The "*Here Comes Jesus*" presentation observed immediately before Easter involved all pupils. It was an excellent learning experience for the children that also impacted on the many parents, grandparents and community members present. Children talk to their parents about acts of worship. Parents explained that special assemblies led by each class in turn are much appreciated and that collective worship assists in the development of children's understanding of the Anglican faith and practice by providing regular, positive experiences. A group of children from the school visited the church with the Rector to learn about baptism. A good, well-known school creed has been in place for many years. The 1999 Denominational Report recommended that opportunities for reflection should be incorporated into worship. In an observed act of worship a short time for reflection was incorporated. This was very well observed by the children who are clearly used to this approach.

How effective is Religious Education?

Good.

Religious Education is good and meets statutory requirements. The Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus forms the basis for study. A substantial number of R.E. assignments provide evidence of high standards. Parents state that their children have a good knowledge of the bible. "*Sparks*," an after-school club that meets on alternate Fridays provides opportunities for pupils to further investigate Christianity. The work undertaken in R.E. lessons promotes Christianity and an awareness of other major world faiths.

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

Good.

The leadership and management of the school are good. Governors believe that the Headteacher and her staff ensure that the school operates as a well-oiled machine. Governors, Headteacher, staff and the community help to promote a Christian vision and ensure that the demands of the Trust Deed are fulfilled. Governors monitor and challenge the school community to realize this vision by monitoring the management of the school. They regularly visit classrooms. Parents are involved in evaluating the school by means of regular questionnaires. A section relating to involvement with church and community is included. Findings are evaluated and acted upon.

SIAS report June 2006 Flore Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School The Avenue, Flore, Northampton NN7 4LZ.