

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Gilmorton Chandler Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Church Lane  
Lutterworth  
Leicestershire  
LE17 5LU

**Diocese: Leicester**

**LEA:** Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 3rd & 4th July 2006

Date of last inspection: 26th April & 1st May 2001

School's unique reference No: 120203

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Marie Sandford

Inspector's name & No: Mrs Diane Wright (169)

#### **Context**

The school is in the village of Gilmorton. Its catchment area is the parishes of Gilmorton, Ashby Magna, Bruntingthorpe, Kimcote, Peatling Parva, Upper Bruntingthorpe, Walton and Willoughby Waterleys. There are 198 pupils on roll. The school is housed in an old, well-maintained Georgian Rectory with some modern extensions which provide good accommodation for most of the pupils. The year 2 class, however, is accommodated in a mobile. In October when a purpose built extension is completed for the Foundation Stage pupils, the year two pupils will move into the main building. Further improvements will then be carried out to the school grounds enhancing the existing good facilities for pupils.

#### **Summary Judgement**

Gilmorton is good church school strongly committed to its Christian foundation.

#### **Established strengths**

- The headteacher has a clear vision for the school
- Effectiveness in promoting pupils spiritual, moral social and cultural development
- Strong links with the local church
- A strong Christian ethos
- Well behaved, confident children

#### **Focus for development**

- Building links with all the parishes the school serves
- Fully realising the opportunities the new extension will offer
- Widening the range of visitors who lead collective worship, including some from other faith groups

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

The school makes good provision for its pupils. It has a strong Christian ethos which is fundamental to everything it is trying to achieve. The school provides a safe, secure environment where pupils can learn and develop, socially and academically. Collective worship and religious education make an important contribution to the pupils' moral and spiritual development. Pupils enjoy their work and know that teaching and support staff are there to support their learning and help them achieve good standards. Pupils with special educational needs are well supported, and the needs of the more able are met. The school values achievements in the weekly celebration assembly, which is much enjoyed by pupils. Pupils understand the need for well disciplined behaviour and follow the school rules. They are confident that any issues can be resolved by talking to staff. The school council makes a good contribution, influencing both the school environment and its routines. Parental and pupils' views are sought through questionnaires. Pupils support a range of charities through fundraising, linking both with the church and the wider community. Extra-curricular activities, educational visits and residential visits provide valuable learning experiences for pupils.

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

Collective worship is seen as an important part of the school day. The pupils value it and understand the effect it can have on their day-to-day lives. A group of year six pupils efficiently prepare the hall for worship. Worship incorporates drama, song, music, prayer and reflection. There is a table with a candle, and cross as a focal point. The pupils participated fully during the worship led by "Reverend Jane" and by a class teacher, responding well to questions,

taking on roles and joining in with singing, reflection and prayer. They entered, waited and left in a calm, orderly, manner. Acts of worship are planned carefully, all staff are involved and comprehensive records are kept. Worship is monitored by staff and governors. Worship also takes place in All Saints Church at festivals and other regular services, which are well attended by school families. Prayers are said at the end of the morning and at the end of the school day. Widening the range of visitors who lead worship has been identified as a focus for development.

### **How effective is the religious education?**

Religious education is effectively taught, following the new Diocesan Syllabus, whilst taking account of some QCA units. Lessons are carefully planned with clear learning objectives and pupils respond positively. Standards of achievement are good. There are opportunities for listening, questioning, and discussion, and written follow-up work is differentiated. Visits to the local church and some other places of worship enhance learning. Planning is monitored termly by the subject coordinator. This year she has observed lessons in years 1 and 5, in line with the school development plan. The coordinator is keen to implement further strategies to identify the more able and the gifted and talented, so their needs can be met more fully. Future development is focused on broadening religious education through more visits to places of worship, invited speakers on other faiths, wider use of ICT and developing links with schools of different faith backgrounds.

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

The leadership and management of this school is good. The headteacher, in post for one year, has brought much needed stability to the school after several unsettled years. The headteacher provides strong leadership and is well supported by the teaching staff, who have responded positively to a fuller understanding of their roles as subject coordinators and the clear sense of direction she has given. The headteacher and governors are very committed to the school's Christian foundation; there are strong links with the local church, and the headteacher is keen to build links with the other parishes. There is good involvement of governors in visits to the school. There are two Foundation governor vacancies which should be filled to bring the governing body up to full complement. Relationships with parents, which had been an area of concern, are now good. Parents value the school's Christian foundation and feel staff are approachable. The weekly newsletter keeps families well informed about school life. Pupils enjoy being at school and are proud to be part of it.