

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

<p>Hagbourne CE VC School East Hagbourne Nr Didcot OX11 9LR Diocese of Oxford LEA : Oxfordshire Dates of inspection: 10 January 2006 Date of last inspection: 8-10 February 2000 School's Unique reference number: 123168 Name of Headteacher: Mr Richard Jones SIAS Inspector NS120: Mrs Rosemary Bartlett</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary Judgement</p> <p>The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England School is good.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Established strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The pupils are happy, confident and communicative.• The school has strong church and community links.• Global citizenship is outstanding.
<p style="text-align: center;">Focus for development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contribute to a review by Church schools of planning for collective worship• Adopt and implement the new Agreed Syllabus for religious education
<p style="text-align: center;">How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?</p> <p>The school's provision for meeting the needs of all learners, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding.</p> <p>Individual strengths and interests of the pupils are well recognised and imaginatively developed. Particular areas of need are effectively addressed. The very good, broad curriculum includes a wide range of stimulating activities. Pupils are actively involved in many areas of school life. The school demonstrates a strong sense of care for the world and for its resources. Pupils participate enthusiastically in the school's sustainability projects. They monitor the school's use of electricity, gas and water. They support the school's recycling scheme. A sense of the wonder and beauty of creation is fostered. Pupils especially enjoy the sensory garden and the sound of the wind chimes. The school has active connections with the wider world community. Pupils learn well about their international neighbours through the shared sustainability projects. These have included the Socrates/ Comenius project Becoming a better Global Citizen. They make good personal links through contacts with pen pals and through visits. A good number of staff and pupils have visited countries in Europe, Africa as well as Australia. Pupils' efforts and achievements, both in school and outside are regularly celebrated. So also are those of their family members, and of the staff. Celebrations have included the award for the high standard of school dinners and the Freedom of Blandford Forum won by a pupil's grandparent. Health education is well established, including healthy eating, as demonstrated in the Tasty Tuesday scheme. Religious education contributes well to the spiritual and moral development of pupils. There are good, attractive and informative subject displays, such as that of the Creation. Pupils take pride in their RE work. The school plans to adopt and implement the new Agreed Syllabus for RE.</p>

What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. The school's good daily worship is well attended by all pupils and teachers. Worship is well introduced with the symbolic lighting of candles. Pupils play an increasingly active part in worship. They enjoy leading the actions for hymns. They contribute well through writing and reading out their own prayers. The school has close links with the parish church. The Rector or another member of the clergy leads a weekly act of school worship. Christian values celebrated in worship, such as kindness, are well reinforced throughout the school day. Pupils experience a good variety of leadership styles of worship. They especially enjoy the Friday celebration assemblies and the visits of the puppet Stew the Rabbit, who has a variety of adventures from which he learns many life lessons. There are opportunities for reflection in most acts of school worship. Pupils' responses to worship have included: "In worship I like to let out all my feelings". Special occasions such as St Andrew's Day are well celebrated. There is a very good attendance by families. This is an occasion when the Eucharist is celebrated. School worship enables pupils to develop some understanding of the distinctive Anglican tradition. The school currently plans to take part in a review of school worship, with partnership schools.

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 outstanding. The headteacher, staff and governors work very effectively together. The school has close ties with the parish church and with the wider church. The foundation governors are very active within the school. The Rector and clergy provide support for religious education, school worship and for pastoral needs. Collective worship (see above) and religious education are well documented in the school prospectus. The appropriate curriculum time is allocated to RE.

There are good links with Diocesan Officers. There have been visits from the Bishops of Oxford and of Reading. Links with schools abroad (see above) include two church schools, in Africa and Australia. These contacts contribute well towards the pupils' understanding of the broader Christian context. The visit by a senior staff member of the school in Uganda, in particular, made a significant impression on pupils. They became aware of the clear differences in lifestyles, but also of a shared humanity: "She was so cold".

There is a strong sense of community across the school. Within this there is a clear sense of challenge, a vigorous approach to self-evaluation and development. This is reflected in the governors' strategic five-year plan. Recommendations to review the prospectus entries for RE and worship and to try to establish a link with a school in Africa made at the time of the last inspection were very promptly followed up.

The Living Churchyard project exemplifies the school's close relationship with the church and community. Pupils have been actively involved in planning and implementing a regeneration project in the nearby churchyard. This has included the placing of a bench and bird table to provide a place for comfort and rest.