

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Harbury Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Back Lane
Mill Street
Harbury
CV33 9HR

Diocese of Coventry

Warwickshire LEA
SIAS inspection: 9th March 2006
Date of last inspection July 2000
School's Unique reference number 125636
Head teacher: Mr. Denis Daly
SIAS Inspector NS: 318 Mr John Lawton

Context

Harbury Church of England Primary School is a smaller than average primary school situated in the village of Harbury, Warwickshire. Almost all pupils are from a white British background. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is below the national average and the proportion of pupils who have learning difficulties and disabilities is also below the national average. The school is situated on an attractive site and the grounds provide a valuable learning resource as well as an ideal play area.

Summary Judgement

Harbury Primary School is a good Church school. Central to its effectiveness is the distinctive way in which the school meets the needs of all its learners and the Christian ethos which influences all aspects of school life.

Established strengths

- The outstanding leadership and vision of the head teacher
- The hard work and commitment of all staff and their support for the vision of the school
- The relationship between all members of the school community where everyone is valued for their contribution
- The strong support and relationships with the church and the support for the school's Christian ethos by the Foundation governors

Focus for development

- Continue to develop the involvement of the Foundation governors in the use of the Toolkit in the process of self evaluation
- Develop policy and practice to evaluate the impact of Collective Worship

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good because it makes strong contributions towards meeting the needs of all learners. Good provision, breadth of opportunity and high expectations help to meet the needs of all learners. The Christian ethos engendered throughout the school enables all learners to flourish and reach their potential and make good progress. Relationships within the school community and with stakeholders are very good. Learners are proud of their school and the School Council provides them with good opportunities to discuss issues with one member telling the inspector that 'people care for each other at Harbury'. Learners understand their responsibilities within the school community and behaviour is very good. The "Earthworms", a group of children and parents, is very proactive in improving and developing the environment of the school through such projects as landscaping, garden maintenance and the school greenhouse. The school also works very well with the village community and many charities, and parents recognise the value of the school as a church school.

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

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good. Worship forms an integral part of school life. The policy for Collective Worship is clear and daily acts of Collective Worship are inclusive and well planned. There are good examples of learner and staff involvement through hymn singing, story telling, questioning, reflection and prayer. Key Stage One learners led the whole school with prayers they had written themselves. The overall involvement of learners impacts on achievement through such areas as speaking and listening and the spiritual and moral development of all learners. The school provides learners with a balanced view of other faiths and learners speak positively about and enjoy worship. The school honours the Anglican tradition and learners feel valued and included and through this exhibit confidence in themselves and a caring attitude to others. The school makes good use of All Saints' church for acts of worship. Parents' comments show that they believe that Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of the school.

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 is outstanding. The quality and leadership of the head teacher is outstanding. His vision and Christian commitment contribute significantly to the success of this church school. All staff are committed to supporting the special ethos of the school and make significant contributions to the development of learners and vision for the school. The quality of relationships between learners and staff is very good and a sense of Christian purpose is evident throughout the school. Environmental links through the Comenius project with schools in Greece, Finland and Germany are particularly praiseworthy. The Rector is very supportive and works in close harmony with the school and community. Foundation governors also show significant support for the school and share in and lead acts of worship. The school has a strong partnership with the church and major festivals are celebrated in All Saints' church. Parents and other stakeholders are consulted regularly and parents feel that the school has a special caring quality and distinctive Christian ethos.