

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Heddon-on-the-Wall Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Trajan Walk  
Heddon-on-the-Wall  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE15 0BJ

**Diocese: Newcastle**

LA: Northumberland

Dates of inspection: 21st June 2006

Date of last inspection: 2000

School's Unique reference number: 122275

Headteacher: Mrs S. Ellis

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Jean Mulley

#### School context

The school is situated on a private housing estate. It has 150 pupils including the nursery. Approximately 20% of the pupils are from families based at the Albemarle Barracks. This impacts on pupil mobility. The headteacher has been in post for two years. Following several recent changes in staffing the current staff now appear to be settled and this has had a positive effect on the development of the school.

#### Summary Judgement

This is a good school with an outstanding Christian ethos. The school recognises its role as a Church of England school and this is well documented in the school SEF and other documents. The school is very welcoming and friendly. Staff and pupils have a very positive and out-going attitude. Respect for all is paramount.

#### Established strengths

The outstanding Christian ethos pervades all areas of school life. This is as a result of explicit Christian values, attitudes and expectations. There is a strong sense of team work and commitment within the staff. Their enthusiasm ensures good relationships between the staff and pupils. Children are well behaved and confident. Parents are very positive about and supportive of the school.

#### Focus for development

Ensure consistency of practice re the completion of collective worship planning and evaluation sheets. Ensure that there is a focal point set up for all acts of worship – a worship table with cross, candle, etc. Continue to develop the role of foundation governors in bringing the church aspect into areas of governance. The school should be aware of developing closer links with the local community - particularly links with the families at the Albemarle Barracks.

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

This is a school where implicit Christian values such as forgiveness, caring and love are recognised and lived out. Relationships within the school are good. The dedication of staff together with a shared Christian vision fosters the development of high self-esteem amongst pupils. Children are confident, well behaved and care for each other. Children are challenged to succeed within a secure environment. One of the strengths of the school is the way in which pupils with SEN are cared for and encouraged to achieve their potential. Opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are to be found in many areas of the curriculum. There are some excellent displays of a religious nature around the school showing that children's work is valued and celebrated. The children are encouraged to look for the positive and good in their peers – in various corners around school can be seen small displays of messages such as "Mary was kind to me when I fell down", "Tom looked after me when I felt sad"

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

Worship is well planned and structured with time built in for reflection. Pupils regard it as a special time of the school day. Pupils take an active part in worship by leading the prayers, acting out a story, setting the hall up for worship, leading the singing.

The school has a school creed which has been effectively set to music by one of the staff. Prayers are said at other times throughout the school day. There is a prayer corner in the hall. The parish priest is a regular visitor to the school and conducts school worship on a regular basis as does the local Methodist Minister. A member of the parish church also leads worship. The local church is used for special occasions and also as a resource. The school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of other faiths and good evidence can be seen around the school – pupils' art work, displays of artefacts.

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

The leadership and management of this school are good. The headteacher has a clear Christian vision for this school. This is supported by staff and governors. There have been a number of changes to the governing body recently but the long serving vice chair is able to provide continuity. New members are committed to the school and have attended many training sessions. Recently appointed foundation governors are aware of, and are ready to develop their particular role in bringing the church aspect into areas of governance. The parish priest serves as the chair of governors and is a frequent and supportive visitor to school.

SIAS report June 2006 Heddon-on-the-Wall C.E. First School Trajan Walk Heddon-on-the-Wall Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 0BJ