

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

High Littleton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Church Hill
High Littleton
Bristol
BS39 5HF

Diocese: Bath and Wells

LA: Bath and North East Somerset Council

Dates of inspection: 22nd May 2006

Date of last inspection: 21st – 22nd September 1999

School's Unique reference number: 109196

Headteacher: Mr. Richard Bullard

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Muriel Griffiths 268

School context

This friendly village school is smaller than average, with 116 pupils. Most of the pupils come from the village or the surrounding rural area and are of white British background. There are fewer than average pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities but an above average number with statements of special educational needs. The original Victorian buildings, situated opposite Holy Trinity Church, have been extended to provide more accommodation with attractive school grounds.

Summary Judgement

This is a good Church of England school with some areas that are outstanding. Its Christian values strongly permeate the life of the whole school.

Established strengths

- The value placed on each individual member of the school community.
- A strong open door policy which encourages positive dialogue between home and school.
- Outstandingly good relationships.

Focus for development

- Create more opportunities for children to plan and participate in the daily act of worship.
- Continue to foster and develop pupils' spiritual awareness by creating more opportunities for stillness and reflection.
- Include a section developing the Church foundation of the school in each year's School Improvement Plan.

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

The school makes outstanding provision for all pupils and as a result each individual feels valued and special.

Effective systems are in place to identify each child's strengths and weaknesses, and so, standards are good overall and very good in Key Stage 1. Pupils learn the values of love, care and respect for each other through the very strong Christian ethos. Pupils describe the school as a 'happy place' because 'everyone cares about us'. All learners are secure in the knowledge that they matter as individuals and there are good reward systems in place with many opportunities for celebration. Personal development is outstanding and as a result, behaviour and attitudes are excellent. Relationships are exemplary throughout the school community. There are many opportunities for children to take part in both local and national charitable activities. For example, the whole school is involved with the 'Christmas Shoebox Appeal' for children less fortunate than themselves and more locally, older children are involved in costing and planning an annual party for Senior Citizens. The Christian ethos impacts on the spiritual, moral, and social development of pupils and they take their responsibilities for one another very seriously.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Pupils clearly enjoy collective worship and talk enthusiastically about their favourite acts of worship led by different members of staff. Pupils talk about worship as a 'special time when the whole school comes together'. They especially like the visitors from the local church, who regularly come into school to lead collective

worship. Pupils have opportunities to evaluate formally the acts of worship and make sensible and thoughtful comments. This helps them to understand the importance of the daily act of worship in the life of the school. They learn about Bible stories, religious traditions and Christian values through a carefully planned programme of worship. The quality of worship observed was good and the theme of 'Helping Others' reinforced the importance of various charitable events in the school and also helping one another every day. The quiet, relaxed atmosphere in the hall meant that children readily joined in with all the elements of worship with enthusiasm. Good use is made of the Parish Church for times of celebration during the school year, again making the school's Christian foundation more evident.

How effective is the religious education?

Religious Education is good.

Work follows the locally agreed syllabus 'Awareness Mystery and Value' and teachers' planning is thorough and meets the needs of the mixed age classes appropriately. Lessons observed were of a good standard and gave the pupils opportunities to explore spiritual and moral issues. For example, older pupils were considering 'The Good Samaritan' and there were good opportunities given for discussion so they could relate the story to their everyday lives. Pupils speak confidently about their learning, which clearly contributes to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Children in Key Stage 1 enjoyed discussing 'God's beautiful world' and were enthusiastic to talk about their recent Woodland Walk which had provided excellent opportunities to look at God's creation. The teacher's skilful questions helped pupils to understand the importance of caring for the environment. The 'caring ethos' means that pupils are confident in sharing personal feelings. The recently appointed co-ordinator is working on improving assessment further in the subject although this is already well established with pupils' knowledge and understanding assessed regularly.

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 good.

The headteacher and governors ensure that the school's church foundation is at the heart of the school. The inspired leadership and vision of the headteacher contributes greatly to the success of the school as one with a Christian foundation. The school's church foundation is explicit in all documentation and the headteacher and governors ensure that the vision of the school is also evident in practice. The whole school community has been involved in the school's improvement planning and parents are regularly consulted about school matters and their views are valued and acted on appropriately. Parents believe that the distinctive Christian ethos has a positive impact on the pupils and see that it gives 'a special quality' to the life of the school which enables pupils to flourish as individuals. The shared and open management style of the staff team provides a good role model for pupils. The School Council, which changes each term in order to give more pupils a chance to be involved, makes significant impact on the life of the school. The commitment of the headteacher, governors, staff, pupils and parents contributes to the sense of family that is evident in the school.