

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Holy Trinity Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Lane,
Cookham,
Maidenhead,
Berkshire.
SL6 9QJ.

Diocese: Oxford

LA: Windsor & Maidenhead

Dates of inspection: 17th July 2006

Date of last inspection: 1st November 1999.

School's Unique reference number: 109961

Headteacher: Graeme Aldous

Inspector's name and number: Margaret Maskell - 136

Summary Judgement

Holy Trinity is a good church school with outstanding leadership. The school makes good provision for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of its pupils.

Established strengths

- A strong Christian ethos which values all learners.
- Good systems of monitoring and evaluation are in place
- Close links with Holy Trinity Church, Cookham.

Focus for development

- Further develop the existing plans for collective worship.
- The provision of an act of worship for older pupils in the school

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

Through its distinctive Christian character the school makes good provision to meet the needs of all its learners.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is good. Because of this ethos pupils are encouraged to express their values and beliefs openly, honestly and with respect for others, as demonstrated in the 'circle times'. The school teaches its pupils to respect those of other faiths and traditions.

Parents recognise and value the schools' Christian status, citing examples of an ethos which is inclusive and caring and supportive. Parents and staff speak of the good relationships which exist within the school community.

Christian values form the foundation upon which the staff create a positive learning environment. The mission statement expresses the intention that pupils develop a love of learning and that they feel happy and safe in school. It is evident that pupils enjoy their school as well as the many challenges with which they are presented. A broad curriculum and many extra-curricular activities encourage the pupils to use their gifts and talents. Through good teaching, academic achievements are of a very high standard.

The behaviour throughout the school is very good. Pupils can explain the school rewards system and sanctions describing them as being fair. Achievements are acknowledged during assemblies and 'golden book' pupils clearly appreciate the opportunity for recognition that this affords.

The pupils value the school council which seeks to establish their opinions and judgments. Following research undertaken by the council, the recent acquisition of new equipment for the playground has proved to be a popular innovation.

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

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

Collective worship is good and occupies an important place as a key element of

Christian witness in the life of the school. Worship is consistently and recognisably Christian. The pupils are made aware of Anglican traditions because of close links with the clergy and the regular visits which are made to the local church. At Easter the children took part in a walk of witness, preparing pictures for each station of the cross.

The pupils appreciate the quiet reflective time observed before formal prayers begin. They also enjoy the singing which for them, is a high point of worship. They are able to pray using the Lords Prayer. Collective worship provides a clear varied programme based on Christian values. Themes for collective worship concentrate on the spiritual and moral development of all pupils. The planning for worship is not detailed enough and needs to be developed further. This is an area which has already been identified by the school. Pupil evaluations suggest that there is a need for an act of worship designed specifically for the upper school.

Pupil participation in worship includes singing, acting or playing a wide selection of musical instruments. These varied styles of worship encourage and enable pupils to become involved . Parents attend the end of term church services and until recently, have attended class assemblies which, following a brief cessation, are to be reintroduced.

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

The leadership and management of this church school is outstanding

The Headteacher and governors provide outstanding leadership, working in close partnership with one another and contributing to the success of the school. There is a clear mission statement which has recently been rewritten, involving all stakeholders. This is included in the prospectus and informs all school policies.

The priorities which have been set out in the School Improvement Plan reflect an interest in the development of a Christian community. The 'ethos' working group together with information received from the 'parent partnership' meetings has helped to formulate the plan.

By means of questionnaires, a visiting programme for governors and information gathered from the parent partnership meetings, the Headteacher and governors monitor and evaluate the development of the Christian ethos within the school.

In-service training programmes help staff and governors to maintain and enhance the Christian character of the school. There is an effective induction programme for staff which covers the Christian distinctiveness of the church school and this is given high priority.

Parents speak of the school's Christian ethos, where staff are approachable and sensitive to the needs of their pupils and are committed to ensuring a high quality of education. Relationships within the school community are excellent. Staff feel valued and supported by the leadership team.

The school has strong links and enjoys a productive relationship with the Holy Trinity Church community. The school visits the church each term for a service of worship and, as well as being involved with the management of the school, the clergy lead an act of worship at the school each week.

SIAS report July 2006 Holy Trinity Primary School, School Lane, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire. SL6 9QJ.