

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Lavant Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

West Stoke Road

Lavant

Chichester

West Sussex

PO18 0BW

Diocese: Chichester

LA:West Sussex

Dates of inspection: 29 November 2005

Date of last inspection: March 2000

School's Unique reference number: 125986

Headteacher: Christine Smith

Inspector's name and number: Alyson Heath

School context

Lavant Church of England Primary school is a small rural village school near Chichester. It is much smaller than most primary schools with 64 children on roll. It occupies a spacious building which provides an attractive, modern, light and airy teaching and learning environment. The extensive grounds look out on to beautiful countryside. 43.75% of the children come from outside the catchment area. Lavant Church of England Primary school has six teachers made up of full and part time staff plus five teaching assistants.

Summary Judgement

Lavant CE Primary is a very effective school, with a calm distinctive ethos based on strong Christian beliefs and values. The high quality of the relationships within the school and the ever growing opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development have a significant impact on all pupils, enabling them to become successful learners. The children are very proud of their school and speak with confidence and enthusiasm about why their school is special.

Collective worship is of a high standard. It is very well planned and imaginative. All staff lead acts of collective worship. Acts of collective worship involve the children from all age ranges. Opportunity is given for reflection and stillness. The input from the rector is greatly valued by the whole school community.

The school is very well led by the headteacher, who is very well supported by her staff. The governors take an active part in the life of the school. There are strong links between the school and the church community. Parents and carers that were interviewed spoke unanimously about their support for the school and the way in which their children are cared for by all the staff.

Established strengths

- The very good, distinctive ethos based on strong Christian beliefs and values.
- The very good quality of the planning and provision for collective worship, involving the whole school community.
- The excellent relationships between the children, staff, governors, parents, church and the wider community.
- The outstanding leadership of the headteacher.

Focus for development

- Develop a separate SMSC policy leading to a consistent approach to the monitoring and evaluation of its impact on the children's learning.
- Develop a system for evaluating the Collective Acts of Worship.
- Identify mechanisms for assessing parental opinion on the school's distinctive character as a church school.

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

The school makes very good provision to meet the needs of all its learners. The children commented upon how they felt that their views were listened to and respected. The strong Christian ethos of the school is reflected in the relationships within the school and the wider community. The attitude and behaviour of the children are very good with children supporting each other in making the right

choices. Visitors receive a warm welcome from staff and pupils. School and class rules are displayed prominently and pupils have a clear understanding of the school's behaviour policy. At playtimes the children are well supervised and a successful "buddy band" system is in place to ensure that children are not left isolated during these recreational times. The buildings and grounds are well cared for. Classrooms are organised in an exemplary way with good displays which both celebrate the children's work and support their learning. The children speak with enthusiasm about the achievement book and the achievers of the week display where all aspects of achievement are celebrated, adding to the feeling that children feel valued and special.

Children who have special educational needs are very well supported, not only by the staff but by their peers. Displays around the school remind the pupils of the multi-cultural and multi-faith nature of Britain today, this is an area that the school is continuing to develop. Speakers from different faiths are welcomed into school. The school is constantly reflecting on its practice to ensure that the quality of provision is continually improving. The writing of a separate SMSC policy is planned. This will support effective monitoring and evaluation of its impact on the children's learning.

Grade 2

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

The impact of Collective Worship at Lavant school is good.

During the observed act of worship children listened well to the meaning of Advent; this was delivered in a skilful way so that the concept was accessible to all. Children responded well to the time of reflection and prayer. The use of appropriate music and the lighting of a candle added to the tranquil atmosphere throughout the worship.

Christian festivals are clearly identified in the collective worship long term plan. All staff are involved in taking acts of worship. Staff offer support to each other when planning and are committed to the importance of their daily act of worship. A log is kept of each act of worship. This can be further developed by adding an evaluation of the collective act of worship and noting any significant impact on the children's learning. Children are very positive about their acts of worship and clearly enjoy the variety of the leaders' approaches. They were particularly enthusiastic about the incumbent's acts of worship. He has developed his own special interactive approach. Children take an active part in the acts of worship by their involvement in drama, showing work, reading, listening, music and offering opinions and ideas. The school makes excellent use of the resources of the church and the whole school attends church for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Service. Worship is consistently Christian but the school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of those of other faiths and of none and takes care to ensure that the acts of worship provide for their spiritual and moral development as well as that of Christian believers.

Grade 2

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

The outstanding leadership provided by the headteacher and the very good support she gets from the governors contributes significantly to the success of Lavant as a church school. It is obvious on entering the school that it is proud of its church status with a school banner and a beautiful iron cross in the entrance hall. The Christian foundation is evident from the displays in the corridors and in the classrooms which reflect the Christian ethos of the school. All stakeholders feel involved and valued and parents feel that their children's well being is uppermost in the staff and governors' minds when they are monitoring, evaluating and developing the Christian dimension of the school's life. The school has strong links with local churches and parents interviewed speak unanimously of the caring quality the school has and of how this enables their children to grow as individuals.

Grade 1