

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Longparish Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Longparish

Andover

Hampshire

SP11 6PB

Diocese: Winchester

LA: Hampshire

Dates of inspection: March 14th and 15th 2006

Date of last inspection: January 2000

School's Unique reference number:

Headteacher: Mrs. Penny Chernside-Sergison

Inspector's name and number: Harry Kirby. Timothy Reynolds.

School context

Longparish is a 5 to 11 primary school with 96 pupils on roll. The school is a popular village school. It has recently undergone major re-modelling. Approximately 50% of its intake comes from outside the catchment area. A new Headteacher has been appointed and takes up the post after Easter. The Deputy Headteacher is Acting Head for one term.

Summary Judgement

Longparish C.E. Primary School is a good church school where high academic standards are being achieved within a strong, caring Christian ethos

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

Overall Grade : 1 The way in which the school meets the needs of all learners is outstanding

Strengths

- Members of the school family, adults and children, feel valued and special. This engenders an environment in which children can flourish educationally and spiritually. The atmosphere in the school is one of a family working, playing and sharing together to the benefit of all.
- The needs of all pupils, both academic and spiritual, are being met through the use of a wide range of strategies and resources.
- Children feel able to make mistakes in the confidence that they will always be supported and valued as individuals. They are secure in being able to express their emotions and feelings without embarrassment.
- Quality acts of worship, combined with good adult role models, give children clear signposts in how to live harmoniously together as a Christian family. They are also aware and appreciative of the diversity of individuals.
- Many and varied displays of Christian verses, prayers and quotations reinforce the message of the Gospel.
- The school's attractive rural environment and new buildings are used to develop the children's awareness of the spiritual element, God's hand at work, in their environment

Recommendation

- Enhance the outside quiet area to enable children to be still, quiet and reflective

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

Overall Grade: 1 The Collective Worship experience provided by the school is outstanding.

Strengths

- Acts of Worship are just that; they are not Assemblies. They meet the legal requirements, they contribute to the children's spiritual development, and they are a very important and distinctive feature of each day's routine.
- Although the Community Hall, which is used for Acts of Worship, is at present so newly built as to be soulless, focus for worship is achieved well by the display of a lit candle, two crosses and appropriate artefacts.
- Children arrive and leave in quiet, reverent mood, helped by suitable music. Hymns are sung with enthusiasm and commendable skill.

- Acts of Worship are very well structured. Children participate meaningfully by reading, saying prayers, presenting artefacts.
- Two local Anglican priests assist by leading Acts of Worship, including in their service plan some of the current work being done in R E.
- A child orientated Eucharist is in process of development.
- The Scrambler Service, a monthly meeting in the church of YR, pre-school children and their carers, develops community involvement.
- The only withdrawals at the time of this inspection are by two Jehovah Witness families whose children's needs are sensitively met by teachers.

Recommendations

- Decoration of the Community Hall in order to add to the existing focus during Acts of Worship.
- Encouragement of Parents to attend some Acts of Worship.
- The evaluation of some of the Acts of Worship needs to be carried out occasionally by a "critical friend" e.g. A Governor or Teacher.

How effective is the religious education?

The effective impact of the Religious Education is good. Overall Grade: 2

Strengths

- The previous Headteacher recently retired after teaching the R E throughout the school for 19 years. The present staff has done well to take on the challenge of taking up the teaching of the R. E.
- A syllabus drawing on Diocesan and L. A. guidelines is in place, and is followed.
- The standard of Religious Education achieved by the learners is good
- R E promotes many of the ideas required to develop the learners' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education.
- Effective impact was observed in some of the lessons visited.

Recommendations

- Class lessons/topics are rather one-paced. Consideration should be given to differentiation of learning activities to suit the needs of pupils.
- A Foundation Governor should be appointed with direct responsibility for the overseeing of R. E. and Worship. This may have training implications
- The present syllabus should be reviewed as soon as possible.

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

Overall Grade 2. The leadership and management of the school is good.

Strengths

- The recently retired Headteacher was a strong driving force in the leadership and guidance of the Christian vision for the school. Her enthusiasm and expertise were complemented and supported by the staff and clergy.
- Prayer and worship are an integral to the school way of life as a result of her vision.
- Foundation Governors provide supportive links with the Headteacher.
- The Rector, an ex-officio Governor, and his Assistant Priest, lead worship in the school on an almost-weekly basis. This gives an insight into the practices of the school and enables an informal method of monitoring worship and R.E.
- The Staff/Governors Development Day enables a shared vision of the school to be established and implemented.
- The small size of the school, and the welcoming, open approach towards parents, help the Headteacher to be aware of parental views and feelings. Identified concerns are dealt with quickly and sensitively.

Recommendations

- Establish monitoring procedures for the Foundation Governors to become active “critical friends” in matters concerning Worship and Religious Education.
- Establish more formal systems to give a greater insight into parents’ views of the school. Enable these views to be considered as the school plans its future direction and development.

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