

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools' Report

### Longstone Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

The Cross,  
Great Longstone,  
Bakewell,  
Derbyshire DE45 1TZ

#### Diocese of Derby

Derbyshire LEA

SIAS Inspection: 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006

Previous Section 23 Inspection: June 2000

URN: 112887

Headteacher: Mr. David Pryor

SIAS Inspector NS 241: Mrs. Joan Stratford

#### Context

The School serves families from Longstone and surrounding villages. It has 6 classes ranging from Reception to Year 6 with 154 pupils on roll; virtually all pupils are of White British Heritage. The number of pupils with learning difficulties or statements is well below average and children's attainment on entry is generally above average. Many families are socially and economically advantaged. The Headteacher has a 70% teaching commitment.

#### Summary Judgement

The School's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church School is good with some outstanding strengths. It enables all learners to feel valued and achieve their full potential and encourages pupils to take responsibility not only for themselves, but also for others. Its success is to a large extent due to the leadership of the Headteacher.

#### Established strengths

- The very strong commitment to the School's Christian foundation and the Christian values that underpin its teaching and mission.
- The outstanding quality of leadership of the Headteacher, which is well supported by the staff and Governors.
- The high standards of care afforded to each individual within the school community and the enthusiastic attitudes of pupils towards their school.
- The strong links and feelings of mutual respect between the School, the Church and the wider community.

#### Focus for development

- Include a statement of intent and action plan for the development of Collective Worship and Religious Education in the School Improvement Plan.
- To review the Mission Statement and aims to reflect the strong Christian ethos of the school and more explicitly define and reflect the Christian foundation and distinctiveness in the Prospectus.
- To revise the Scheme of Work for Religious Education to take account of the Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus and its approaches to assessment.
- To offer opportunities for Inset to the RE Co-ordinator (and possibly all staff).

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

The school makes outstanding provision for all its pupils by an emphasis on a caring Christian ethos in which learners reach their full potential. In addition to academic success there are many opportunities for pupils to use their musical, sporting or other gifts and feel valued. The ethos has a positive impact on the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Relationships within the school are exemplary as are behaviour and manners. Y6 pupils care for younger children through the 'Buddy' scheme. The School Council provides opportunities for pupils to take a degree of responsibility e.g. instigating plans to build a production kitchen, establishment of a healthy tuck-shop. There are a very large number of extra-curricular activities on offer to pupils. Older pupils had completed an exercise giving their views on prayer. One classroom had a display of work on the Holy Books of all the major world faiths. Pupils are taken to visit places of worship of other faiths. Pupils who were interviewed said the best things about the school were teachers and lessons!

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

The impact of worship is good; pupils enjoy worship and participate with enthusiasm. Monthly worship takes place in the Church. The Easter Service held there was greatly enjoyed by pupils, staff and visitors. The Passion story told by the Vicar involved the use of a donkey for

Palm Sunday and pupils strewed branches and garments in the aisle for the procession. Some pupils carried a large wooden cross for Good Friday. Pupils spoke enthusiastically about the service and when interviewed said, "worship is always good at our school". On all occasions good opportunities are provided for reflection, prayer - the Lord's Prayer is used - sung praise and instrument playing. Members of the Parish Church along with local Methodists regularly lead worship in school. Pupils' achievements are celebrated each week at worship when parents are invited. School based worship is planned and mostly led by the Head, who keeps a comprehensive record of worship though without any evaluation.

**How effective is the religious education?**

The effectiveness of Religious Education is good. Pupils were knowledgeable about the topics studied and were encouraged to think for themselves e.g. a lesson looking at the versions of the Resurrection story in all 4 gospels, taking note of the differences and considering the reason for this and then relating it to their own life experiences. The school uses ICT, drama, art and music to ensure the subject 'comes alive'. The school reflects a mono-cultural population but the teaching gives pupils a good understanding of other world faiths without any detriment to Christianity, although the supply of resources needs supplementing. The relatively new co-ordinator has carried out some monitoring of the subject. Planning, monitoring and assessment material for teacher use needs reviewing.

**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 very good. The Headteacher's leadership is inspirational and well supported by a staff team and Governors committed to Christian principles. Unfortunately there is insufficient evidence of the school's aims and ethos in its documentation, although its values are clearly evidenced through the good relationships, attitudes and work ethic in the school. Parents are very aware that this is a Church school and are regularly consulted on issues. When appointing staff Governors make the Christian Foundation and its expectations of staff clear. The school enjoys a very close and productive relationship with the local church and village community. The pupils share their Christian values when visiting Churches and retirement homes in neighbouring villages. There is also regular support for many charities, both overseas, national and local, including involvement in the traditional Derbyshire Well-Dressing Festival.

Sias report April 2006 Longstone Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School  
The Cross, Great Longstone, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1TZ