

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Lostock Gramam Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Lostock Gramam,  
NORTHWICH,  
Cheshire  
CW9 7PT

**Diocese: Chester**

LA: Cheshire

Dates of inspection: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Date of last inspection: May 2000

School's Unique reference number:

Headteacher: Miss Cheryl Walton

Inspector's name and number: Graham H Nuttall

#### School context

Lostock Gramam C E School has 6 classes ranging from Reception to Y6 with 141 pupils on roll. Four pupils within the school are from a local Chinese community. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is 18% which is similar to the national norm although quite a number of families fall just outside this bracket. The number of pupils with learning difficulties and/or statements is also broadly similar to the national average. Housing stock within the school catchment area is very mixed but there are some pockets of desirable properties with a few families being socially and economically advantaged. The opening of a new school in the locality during 2004 impacted upon pupil numbers with a fall of around 10% of the school population, however mobility rates now appear to have settled.

#### Summary Judgement

Lostock Gramam C E Primary School is a good Church of England School. Christian Ethos is at the heart of school life and relationships within the school are of a very high order. Pupils are very well cared for in a warm and friendly environment. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility not only for themselves but also for others and parents are encouraged as partners within the learning process.

#### Established strengths

- The high value placed upon each individual within the school community and the exceptionally high standards of care to be found within the school.
- The pervading Christian ethos which permeates all aspects of school life and within which pupils are nurtured.
- The well motivated and dedicated staff who ably support the dynamic leadership of the headteacher.
- Strong parental and community support for both school and pupil inspired initiatives.

#### Focus for development

- Develop links with the newly appointed priest-in-charge in order to enrich the spiritual awareness of pupils.
- Extend the provision of multi-faith awareness within collective worship.

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

Lostock Gramam C E School is good in meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character. The school makes good provision to meet the needs of all its learners and in particular those pupils with special needs and/or disabilities. High quality relationships ensure that all pupils are highly valued and the school Mission statement "Every child is cherished" is fully supported in practice. Pupils are well motivated and there is a strong commitment within the school to inclusivity. Pupils speak freely about the high levels of care they receive and about the open and kindly nature of all adults found within the wider school community. The School Council provides good opportunities for pupils to take a degree of responsibility for the school and its immediate environment. Parents are encouraged to be active partners within the learning process and many parents work hard in order to support the school community. The behaviour and manners of all pupils are very good indeed and together with a purposeful and calm atmosphere within the school provide a positive learning environment. A wide variety of initiatives such as the Healthy School Week, Effective Early Learning Project, after school clubs and activities, contacts with a primary school within Europe, residential and day visits to

places of interest considerably enrich and support the curriculum. Older pupils set good examples of care towards younger children through the playground "Buddy" scheme.

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

Worship is led by a variety of staff and upon occasions by members of the wider parish team or clergy and lay assistants. Class worship, opportunities for celebration praise and quiet meditation all contribute to a variety of worship styles. The high quality relationships to be found within the school ensure that pupils respond with a degree of enthusiasm. There is a broad selection of materials for use within worship. Many worship themes follow the Liturgical calendar and this gives some understanding of Anglican traditions. Worship themes also help pupils to focus upon Christian values and this impacts positively upon pupils' standards of general behaviour and manners. Some services at major festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter are held within the parish church. A high standard of musicianship ensures that pupils respond enthusiastically with items of sung praise. Well-planned themes provide a time when pupils can experience being part of a caring and compassionate community. The village of Lostock Gralam comprises an almost totally mono-cultural population and the school should develop opportunities for the provision of some multi-faith awareness within collective worship. After quite a lengthy period of interregnum within the parish a new priest-in-charge has now been appointed. She is extremely keen and enthusiastic to work alongside the Headteacher in order to extend established links with the school and further enrich the spiritual development of pupils.

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

Leadership and management of the school as a church school are good. The strong leadership of the Headteacher, supported by a committed and dedicated staff provides a clear distinctive vision for the school. Achievements are celebrated and the views of pupils are fully represented through the School Council. All adults within the school community provide positive role models with Christian values being consistently promoted. This impacts positively in the high standards of behaviour and discipline within pupils. Children recognise that they are well cared for; the school being a delightful place to work and play. The caring Christian ethos is reflected in all aspects of school life. Whilst the majority of parents are not strong church attendees, many recognise that the school has a distinctive Christian quality which impacts positively on learners by providing them with a strong sense of identity. The fairly recently appointed Headteacher quickly and accurately assessed the school's strengths and areas for improvement. She is supported by a very able Religious Education (RE) co-ordinator who has begun to involve stakeholders in evaluating the impact of collective worship on the pupils. The newly appointed priest-in-charge has already started to support the Foundation Governors in order that they may evaluate and develop the distinctive Christian nature of the school. Through good leadership and management the school provides pupils with opportunities to grow and develop within a very effective friendly and caring ethos.