

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Lubenham All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Lane

Lubenham

Market Harborough

Leics

LE16 9TW

**Diocese: Leicester**

LA: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006

Date of last inspection:

School's Unique reference number: 120143

Headteacher: Mrs R. Dunmore

Inspector's name and number: Mrs W. T. Martin 168

#### School context

The school is a voluntary controlled Primary School with 83 pupils on roll. It serves the villages of Lubenham and Theddingworth. The building dates from 1858, with additional classrooms added in 1972, and incorporates the former schoolhouse. The school does not have a hall, which makes a number of activities difficult to manage, including whole school Acts of Worship. Plans are in place for building work to begin later this year, to provide a school hall.

#### Summary Judgement

The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England School is good.

#### Established strengths

- Pupils are secure and confident in school.
- A strong Christian ethos is evident throughout the school.
- Strong links with local churches and the community.
- The head teacher has a clear vision for the school.
- The school manages the physical constraints of the building well.

#### Focus for development

- Once the new hall has been completed, the school should revise its timetable for Acts of Worship, to enable the whole school to meet together more frequently.
- The school should plan to invite parents and the community to share in Christian festivals and Acts of Worship in school, once it has sufficient space for these activities to take place.

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

The prospectus shows clearly that the school is committed to its Christian foundation. This Christian ethos informs all school documentation. The policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development explains a strong commitment to an ethos, pastoral support and curriculum, which will allow all learners to flourish within the school community.

An unusual, colourful cross is displayed in the small entrance hall, showing clearly that this is a church school. The cross was chosen for its child friendly appearance. The school has a warm, welcoming atmosphere, and pupils clearly enjoy coming to school, taking pride in their involvement. Children enjoy undertaking various responsibilities to enhance the life of the school, and were keen to explain these responsibilities.

The successes of individuals are celebrated, and recorded on an attractive tree display, where each leaf represents a pupil's achievement. There is an effective reward system, with certificates and small prizes given to individuals, classes and teams.

Learners support a range of charities, including Age Concern, the Rainbows Hospice and Red Nose Day. They are keen to provide fund raising ideas.

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

Daily worship forms an integral part of school life, and is clearly inclusive for all pupils and adults. Pupils enjoy worship, and listen attentively. They are keen to answer questions, showing a mature, thoughtful attitude. Appropriate music is played while pupils enter, and there is always a period of stillness and reflection. A regular pattern is followed, and themes are chosen by the head teacher, following the Christian

calendar, and the Diocesan list of themes when appropriate.

The Vicar of All Saints Church, and Ministers from two other local churches, lead acts of worship each week, following the school theme for the week. Services are held in All Saints Church, though the high box pews limit the school's ability to produce Nativity Plays etc. due to poor visibility for both pupils and parents. A recent "Wedding Service" was conducted in church by the vicar, with pupils playing the part of bride, groom, best man and wedding guests. Pupils were eager to tell me about this, speaking enthusiastically about their roles.

Achievements of pupils are celebrated during acts of worship, thus affirming individuals, groups of children, and whole classes.

The school is considerably hampered by the lack of space. Each key stage has an act of worship every day, and one whole school act of worship takes place each week, in the largest classroom. However, this involves considerable movement of furniture, both before and afterwards, in order to fit everyone in. This takes up valuable curriculum time.

Unfortunately, there is no space to invite parents, or members of the local community, to share worship. The school manages these difficulties well, and looks forward to having a new, purpose built hall, which will resolve the problems.

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

The head teacher provides effective leadership, and has a strong staff team. The school and governors have a clear vision for the future, and have made an excellent start on the new Self Evaluation Toolkit for Anglican schools. The school has an effective Parents' Association, which has worked hard for several years to raise money for a school hall. The Christian ethos is evident in the way pupils are cared for, and how the infrequent incidents of bullying or bad behaviour are dealt with. The school receives an annual grant from the Alderman Newton Trust, which is used to ensure that pupils have access to a good range of resources for the teaching of Christianity and other major world religions. The school provides a range of extra curricular opportunities, giving every individual an opportunity to achieve success.

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