

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Malvern Wells Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Wells Road

Malvern,

Worcs.

WR14 4HF

**Diocese: Worcester**

LA: Worcestershire

Dates of inspection: 3 July 2006

Date of last inspection: Unknown

School's Unique reference number: 116902

Headteacher: Mr K. Wright

Inspector's name and number: Mr. T.R. Sharples 398

#### School context

Malvern Wells C.E. School has 102 pupils situated at the southern end of the Malvern conurbation. A substantial number of pupils come from outside the immediate catchment area; there is little representation of ethnic diversity among the school's population.

#### Summary Judgement

Malvern Wells is a very good school with many outstanding features. The school has made excellent progress in recent years and is well poised to make further improvements in the future. The school is very welcoming, there are many colourful displays and both children and staff are very courteous. The school has a secure programme of self-evaluation.

#### Established strengths

- The vision and excellent leadership of the Head Teacher supported by an able team of enthusiastic teachers and other staff;
- The excellent relationships between all people at the school, especially between the pupils;
- Active, encouraging governors who are aided by strong parish links.

#### Focus for development

- The further development of spirituality to include the school's environment
- Increased provision for times of stillness and reflection during worship and at other times of the school day.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners.

The school is proud of its 'family' atmosphere, and justly so; parents, children and staff all speak very warmly of the character of the school and this ethos is borne out in the behaviour and attitude of the pupils. The children are aware that they are at a church school and that this fact affects the way in which they are expected to behave toward each other particularly in their friendships and awareness of each other's needs. This ethos is very much appreciated by all stakeholders of the school one of the parents commented that "*It is a fabulous place to send my children*". There is a powerful atmosphere of learning to which the children throughout the age range respond to very warmly, even the very youngest saying "*My favourite thing is work*". The broad 'Christian' outlook of the school serves to encourage the cultural awareness of the children in an outstanding way, this is seen in aspects of the charity work and in Christian and Diocesan links to Peru and India for example.

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

The impact of collective worship on the learners is good.

The school's acts of worship are important parts of the school day and have a significant effect on the children and adults in the school. The children respond actively to worship and participate in singing very well the Friday worship includes awards and celebration of achievement and is appreciated by the children. Music is a

key feature of worship with excellent levels of participation from the children as individuals and in a band. The Vicar regularly leads worship and his contributions are particularly enjoyed by the children. The Head Teacher has been determined to strengthen links with the church and set up a pattern of 4 visits a year to the church for worship. The impact of these visits has been outstanding and the children are very interested in ways to bring the excitement and spiritual uplift they feel at church into the worship at school. They particularly spoke of the possibilities for silence and stillness at church which they felt are not so easily found at school. Children also talked about ways of developing the school environment through use of 'hanging things' (banners) and painted windows. The worship in school reflects the practice of the parish very closely, with a strong emphasis on prayer and involvement in mission through charities and worldwide links to other dioceses. This has a good effect on the children who are proud of their charitable efforts.

#### **How effective is the religious education?**

The effect of Religious Education at Malvern Wells is good  
Lessons are well planned within the local Agreed Syllabus which has been adapted a little to both reflect the strong Christian character of the school and to enhance the pupils' experience of other world faiths. The work is well differentiated and supported by the use of ITC and other resources. Good, effective religious language and an open approach give the children the tools for flexible thinking and expression in the subject. Children's thinking skills are actively stimulated by thoughtful teaching approaches and the opportunities given are well realized by teacher leadership in, for example, festivals of light work and in an observed lesson on Hindu creation. Older children are aware of the pattern of work in R.E. and enjoy the work on world faiths, they are less enthusiastic about Christianity – indicating that, at times, the work is a little repetitive particularly in the stories used. The Christian context of the school is well maintained in RE but matters from other faiths are treated with great respect and given due weight and value.  
Pupils' parents are pleased with children's work in RE and the children are very positive about the multi-faith and multi-cultural elements of RE; the pupils showed a mature enjoyment of their trips to worship centres in Birmingham.

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

The leadership and management of Malvern Wells as a church school is outstanding.  
The Governors have an excellent grasp of the school's foundation and its development in relation to the practice of the parish and they are strongly aware of their role in supporting the work of the school. The Christian character of the school is strongly led by the head who is very well supported by Governors & staff. This Christian character of the school is very clearly expressed in the prospectus. The relationships between Governors and staff are outstanding; staff feel supported and encouraged by the trust which the Governors place in them. This secure and sensitive working environment ensures that managerial procedures work efficiently, therefore monitoring and review of all areas of school life are very effective. This sensitivity has a tremendous effect on the children who feel involved in many aspects of school life particularly through the school and class councils. Parents too speak of their involvement in school life and feel part of the school family.