

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Newtown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Queens Road,  
Gosport.  
Hants  
PO12 1JX

#### Diocese: Portsmouth

LA: Hampshire

Dates of inspection: 16/17 January 2006

Date of last inspection: 12 July 2000

School's Unique reference number: 116336

Headteacher: Matthew Prince

Inspector's name and number: David Bailey

#### School context

The inspection was undertaken following the Section 5 OFSTED inspection in October 2005.

The school serves part of Gosport. It is a socially mixed area including some parts where there is a high level of deprivation. The original school was built in 1854 but this was replaced by the newly built school in 1998. There is a small area of garden and hard surface around the school. Negotiations are in progress which could lead to part of St Vincent's College field becoming the school's playing field.

There are currently 401 pupils on roll; the standard number (maximum number of pupils admitted per year) is 60. 10 pupils in the school have special needs sufficient to have a statement or to receive additional support to that normally available in the class setting

The previous inspection was made in July 2000. The report referred to the happy Christian environment; the mutual respect demonstrated in the relationships between adults and children and between the children themselves; the strong links with the church and the strong partnership with parents. The quality of collective worship was recognised. The recommendations included: considering the time of day for collective worship; the evaluation of collective worship; the use of a pro forma to provide information relating to themes; changing the atmosphere in classrooms at times of class based worship and the inclusion of other cultures in collective worship being reflected in policy statements.

#### Summary Judgement

Newtown Primary School is an effective and distinctive Church of England School.

#### Established strengths

Overall Grade 1 (Outstanding)

Strengths identified

- The Christian dimension of the school is reflected in its aims and values.
- There is a cross and a display just inside the main door which clearly shows the school's Christian foundation.
- The ethos is excellent. There is a warm, welcoming atmosphere, commented on by parents.
- Children feel secure and valued as individuals. They trust the staff. Both parents and pupils indicated this.
- Relationships in the school are good. All the staff work well and enthusiastically together, taking on new developments and striving to raise and maintain standards. The relationship between staff and pupils is positive, praise is given and expectations of behaviour are clear. Teachers and support staff speak to pupils in an encouraging, calm manner. The quality of relationships was highlighted by all the people with whom the inspector spoke. Pupil to pupil relationships are generally good and staff support pupils and parents when there are issues in order to resolve the problem.
- The school is a pilot school for the DfES SEAL programme which supports the PSHE curriculum and links to circle time and worship.

- The quality of the spiritual, moral and social development was praised by OFSTED. This aspect of the school's work is evident in the way pupils support one another, serve on the school council, support local and world charities, support local community and church events, are able to explore their feelings and emotions and have a positive attitude towards worship.
- The school is inclusive, ensuring that all pupils can draw the maximum benefit from their experiences here. They have employed staff to support families at risk and encourage the integration of all pupils into the school community. The breakfast and after school clubs is a valuable extension of the school's care for pupils.
- The environment in the school is well maintained and very clean. The corridors and classroom have a range of displays across a full range of subjects and mixing pupils' work with commercially produced materials. The grounds are limited in size but there is a keep fit trail and a "muddy boots" gardening club through which pupils are engaged in planting and maintaining flower beds. The lack of space is evident at playtimes where the pupils who prefer a more robust game impinge on the space of those who prefer to be quieter.
- The school's year 6 pupils attend the annual diocesan leavers service in the Cathedral and pupils attend the workshops which are held there as well.

#### Recommendations for continuing work and development

- Continue the negotiations to take over part of the St Vincent's College fields to provide more playing space for the pupils. Meanwhile consider how to balance the area for the more "robust" games against the provision of quieter zones.
- Continue to explore how to make more opportunities to broaden the multi cultural experiences for the pupils.
- While you have a well resourced library section on Christianity and other religions investigate titles that will help pupils in dealing with personal and social issues.
- Explore with the vicar the placement of a school notice board in local churches to celebrate the pupils' work and publicise what you are achieving.

#### **Focus for development**

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

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

Overall Grade 1 (Outstanding)

I was present at a whole school act of worship and at a KS1 act of worship during the inspection.

Both were very well planned, involved groups of pupils in roles, acting out stories or illustrating the main point of the worship. In both cases the theme was clearly explained and both examples were easily accessible to the pupils. The leaders who were Mr Prince and Mrs Martin both spoke clearly and calmly helping to create a positive atmosphere. Pupils entered and left the Hall quietly and were respectful throughout. They joined in the greeting, prayer and singing enthusiastically (although one KS2 boy confided that he didn't like singing!).

#### Strengths identified

- The Acts of Worship are during the morning and so integrated into the day
- There is a plan of weekly themes which link to the Christian year and the School's golden rules, but there is flexibility to include topical events.
- Time is allowed on occasions for a short period of silence for reflection
- Teachers attend and join in the Acts of worship.
- Pupils are actively involved in a variety of ways; singing, praying, acting and helping to prepare the room and resources.
- The lighting, the candle being lit by a pupil help change the Hall into a place set aside for worship.
- The quality of the services in Church was noted by parents and pupils.
- The sharing Assembly on Friday morning was described by OFSTED and others as being a highlight in the school's life.

Recommendations for further development, in many cases already in hand.

- Develop and formalise the record of worship themes and possible stories and resources to make it easier for new teachers to share the work
- Develop a method for monitoring and evaluating worship that is not too time

consuming or complicated.

- Work with the incumbent to increase the number of visitors from Anglican Churches in the area and other denominations to help in leading Acts of worship.
- Explore with staff (teaching and support staff) what might constitute minimum class worship for mornings when the class is not in a larger Act of worship and consider what resources might be of value in this work.

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

Newtown Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School; RE is therefore inspected by the OFSTED team. The Section 48 inspector was concerned only with the aspects of RE which linked the school to the Church.

##### Strengths identified

- The LEA has recognised the high quality of RE planning and teaching in the school under the leadership of Mrs S Clark
- Resources are well organised and easily accessible to staff.
- The library has many recent books covering Christianity and other religions
- Staff have responded positively to the new LEA agreed syllabus

##### Recommendations to continue and expand the work

- To work with the incumbent to include visits by smaller groups to both local churches to support aspects of RE and so to add to the spiritual development of pupils.
- To consider how DVDs or visits to other special places for different traditions or religions would enrich the experience in RE. The purchase of some shared resources might be possible if funding with church or diocese can be explored.

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

Overall Grade 1 (Outstanding)

##### Strengths identified

- The leadership of the Head and Deputy was described as outstanding by the OFSTED inspector. This was confirmed by parents. Words such as effective, caring and considerate were used. Their enthusiasm and energy inspires others associated with the school to support it. The hard work of the friends group is one example.
- Communication with parents is excellent. Regular newsletters are informative and easy to understand. Both Head and Deputy are available to meet parents and are at the entrance at the end of the school day. Parents appreciate the accessibility of staff.
- Publications available for visitors in the reception area include a detailed induction to the school suitable for parents, new pupils or any visitors. There is a booklet which includes examples of how the school has provided for the particular needs of individual pupils, which anxious parents must find reassuring to read.

##### Recommendations for continued development

- Now that the incumbent has a little more time it is hoped to develop links with him and with the Diocese. This might link to further consideration of the vision and what being a church school means to the stakeholders.

SIAS report January 2006 Newtown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School  
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