

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

North Hinksey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

North Hinksey Lane,
Oxford
OX2 0LZ

Diocese: Oxford

LA: Oxfordshire

Dates of inspection: 20th March, 2006

Date of last inspection: 28th-30th March, 2000

School's Unique reference number: 123156

Headteacher: Mrs. Sally Wheatley

Inspector's name and number: Rev'd Jan Fielden 108

Summary Judgement

North Hinksey is a good school with some outstanding features, where effective leadership and good relationships, provide pupils with a learning environment where the Christian faith is alive and practiced.

Established strengths

- Christian values permeate the daily life of the school, so pupils feel valued and special.
- The welcoming and warm atmosphere throughout the school.
- The Vicar's involvement in the life of the school, particularly in Collective Worship.
- The extremely good behaviour of the pupils and the behaviour management strategies of the staff.
- The positive response of learners who are enthusiastic about their learning.

Focus for development

- The school, with the help of the relatively new incumbent, needs to develop the involvement of the church community in the life of the school.
- To continue to develop reflection time in Collective Worship, giving some thought to a visual focus.
- Include in the Mission Statement and aims, a more positive statement which overtly reflects the Christian ethos of the school.

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

Through its distinctive Christian character the school makes good provision for the needs of learners in a positive and effective way.

It is apparent when talking and listening to the pupils and adults involved in the day to day life of the school that there is a strong Christian ethos.

The school has in place, systems for evaluating individual progress in all areas of the curriculum including Religious Education and Collective Worship. There is good provision for Special Educational Needs which has the support of parents, and a policy for more able and gifted pupils is in place. A SEN specialist teacher works with children on an individual or small group basis meeting the specific needs of each SEN pupil. The progress of the more able pupils is monitored through regular on-going assessment against learning targets.

Relationships between staff and pupils, and between pupils, are very good; every child is known by all staff, and a buddy system exists where older pupils 'watch out' for younger pupils and monitor pupils' inclusiveness.

The curriculum offered is wide ranging and interesting; this is reflected in the enthusiastic response of the pupils to their learning, who are eager to show what they have achieved. Achievement is recognised in a variety of ways, especially in termly achievement assemblies and class assemblies, to which parents are invited.

The pupils feel that their opinions are valued and frequently acted upon, through their involvement in a schools council and suggestion boxes which are available.

Extra curricular activities, provided by staff and parents are varied, and most pupils can find something to interest them.

All pupils have the opportunity to explore other cultures, beliefs and practices particularly through themed learning weeks. Africa, Asia and South America have all been studied when people from the local community share their experiences with the pupils.

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

Collective worship has a good impact on the school community.

The school sees collective worship as a key feature of each day. Collective worship makes a significant contribution to the moral and spiritual development of the pupils. Collective worship can be whole school, Key Stage, Praise and class worship. This variety results in the content being more age specific, something appreciated by the older pupils. Pupils commented positively on the content of collective worship, and were especially keen to mention the times that they were involved in it. Comments on the Vicar's acts of worship were particularly positive. Contributions from other regular visitors such as the Elim Pastor, the Baptist minister, and charity workers enrich the variety of the content. Collective worship is monitored to evaluate the quality and impact. All staff lead worship and are observed on occasions by the Senior Management Team, particularly the newly qualified staff.

The parents of pupils from other faiths are happy for their children to attend this worship. One Muslim mother said she was quite happy for her son to hear about the Christian faith as it was explained sensitively and without pressure. Older pupils were not entirely clear about times for reflection during worship, but spoke positively about time for prayer.

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, on the whole, is good, with some satisfactory features.

The leadership and management of the school make a significant positive contribution to the distinctive Christian character of this school. The school has a large proportion of newly or recently qualified teachers, who with the SMT, continually evaluate and monitor school improvement. Fresh and imaginative ideas are accepted enthusiastically by staff and pupils. As the school supports all staff, a 'Well Being' programme has been recently introduced which affirms the contribution of the staff to the life of the school. All the adults in school are positive role models and have high expectations of behaviour and respect for the individual, both of which are outstanding characteristics of this school.

The school has close links with the Vicar who is a foundation governor. He visits the school fortnightly to take two Key Stage assemblies and spends time in the classrooms. He is also involved in the planning of assemblies. A second foundation governor is a member of the local church congregation, but the links with the church community are somewhat tenuous. There has been a vacancy for a third foundation governor for eighteen months.

Parents are kept in touch with the life of the school through newsletters and their views are sought through home/school agreements and questionnaires. Parents say they are always welcomed into school, some helping in school on a regular basis.

There is always a good attendance of Parents at assemblies and worship that takes place in the local churches each term. Parents feel that the school has a special caring quality and are positive about the school's Christian ethos.

SIAS report March, 2006 North Hinksey CE Primary School North Hinksey Lane, Oxford