

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Old Newton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Road
Old Newton
Stowmarket
IP14 4PJ

Diocese: St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

LA: Suffolk

Dates of inspection: 7th and 8th December 2005

Date of last inspection: 2000

School's Unique reference number: 124739

Headteacher: Mr S Rance

Inspector's name and number: Mr E Green

School context

Old Newton is a small village Church of England Voluntary Controlled school near Stowmarket. The school caters for 59 children aged 4 to 9; there are three classes. Most of the children who attend the school come from the village of Old Newton, a few from other nearby villages and towns. Nearly all the children come from white British backgrounds. Overall, children's attainment on entry is similar to that usually seen for children of that age.

Summary Judgement

Old Newton Primary School is a good Church School with a number of strengths. These strengths are based on an overall good understanding of the role of a Controlled Church of England Primary school in village life.

Established strengths

- Established pattern of creative Christian Worship
- A caring ethos based on Christian Values

Focus for development

- Monitoring of school worship by governors and head teacher
- Development of resources for worship
- Seek to appoint a second Foundation Governor as soon as possible.

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

The way in which the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners is good. The school gives high regard to this; as a result, the children are confident and secure in the learning environment, which the school provides. They talk positively of Christian values and give good examples of how these values are put into practice in everyday school life. For example, they talk freely and openly about forgiveness and what an important Christian value, forgiving others and in turn being forgiven is. The 'Friday Sharing Assembly' gives everyone an opportunity to acknowledge individual and collective achievements; this assembly is well supported by parents. The children speak of the importance of their achievements being acknowledged and valued and shared with the whole school. The school through its Christian ethos and worship supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners. The school is committed to Christian values in action and has just sent off over fifty filled shoeboxes as part of Operation Christmas Child.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. Worship plays an important role in the life of the school; it is well planned and organised. The children enjoy collective worship and have a good positive attitude towards their daily time of worship. They are actively encouraged to participate in the collective acts of worship; this may involve everyone pausing for reflection, individuals leading prayers or more practically the operation of the overhead projector. They readily recount past worship experiences and understand how what they learn can be applied to the rest of their school life. The school has special services, for example, a Leavers' Service and also plays a leading role in some services held in church. The children talk positively of their visit to the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds and the part they played in the West Suffolk Schools Carol Service. The school welcomes visitors to lead collective worship. Before his recent retirement, the village rector was a regular visitor. There are good links with the local Methodist Chapel who regularly send members of the

church to lead worship in the school. All staff are involved in the leading of worship.

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 is satisfactory. The head teacher and governors provide effective leadership of the school overall. Governors are aware of the school's Christian foundation and purpose, which are referred to in the school prospectus and statement of aims. The governors are, presently, not actively involved in the regular monitoring of worship nor do they receive regular reports at their meetings on collective worship. The school currently only has one Foundation Governor. The school notice board and headed paper refer to the fact that it is a controlled school but there is no reference to it being a Church of England School. The local church community supports the school and works with the school in supporting local events such as the 'Friday Drop In'. Staff applying for posts at the school are made aware of the school's Christian focus at interview. The school values the links it has with the diocese and uses the recently introduced diocesan newsletters to keep abreast of latest initiatives. Teachers and staff feel valued; the governing body is committed to following the LEA's work/life balance programme.

SIAS report 7th and 8th December 2005 Old Newton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School School Road Old Newton Stowmarket IP14 4PJ