

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Orleton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Orleton,
Nr Ludlow,
SY8 4HQ

Diocese: Hereford

LA: Hereford

Dates of inspection: 4th April 2006

Date of last inspection: 2001

School's Unique reference number: 116836

Headteacher: Mr. Matthew Dunkerley

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Sandie Johnson

School context

Orleton School currently has seven mixed –ability classes. Set in rural surroundings the buildings and school grounds are kept to a high standard and provide an aesthetically pleasing and secure environment. A Beacon School since September 1999, Orleton provides high quality teaching and learning facilities for its pupils. As a result pupils starting school with average attainment make above the national average amount of progress during their time at this school.

Summary Judgement

Orleton Primary is a very good school providing a sincere, reliably Christian foundation throughout its daily life and teaching. The Self Evaluation carried out by the school is secure.

Established strengths

- Amongst the school's many strengths the all-embracing nature of the Christian values underpins the life and work of the school.
- The time taken by staff since the last denominational Inspection to consider the learning ethos and spiritual development across the curriculum has created a vibrant learning environment alongside the relentless pursuance of high standards

Focus for development

- To develop an increased role for foundation governors, with an invitation to attend regularly and through staff discussions to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship.
- To review R.E. resources, especially library books and replenish in line with the new Herefordshire SACRE recommendations and, amongst all the pressures to maintain "standards", to try to allow time to put R.E. and values education higher up the SDP agenda.

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

The school as a Church School meets the needs of all the learners very well in an outstanding way.

The school makes very good provision to meet the needs of all its learners emphasising core values of friendship, consideration and self- control. Pupils feel valued and special; achievements and concerns are respectively celebrated and shared through the school council and assemblies. Parents are content with the moral and spiritual guidance offered by the staff who are committed to developing " the whole child" in a caring community under-pinned by clear Christian values. Relationships are very good and pupils' welfare and happiness go hand in hand with personal achievement. The superb environment, in which pupils take great pride, encourages their physical and spiritual development. There are good, supportive links with the parish church and local Christian community. Pupils' awareness of the wider world is enhanced by charitable projects and links with other faith communities notably in Wolverhampton. Pupils have attended the Cathedral Activity Days in Hereford and have a link with Tanzania through the Leominster Tengeru project.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Collective worship is of good quality, conducted through assemblies based around Christian values supplemented with traditional Anglican themes. The parish priest helps the pastoral committee and staff to plan the acts of worship. He regularly leads, participates in and discusses their quality and impact with the Head Teacher. The

school has created a meaningful and practical Collective Worship Policy that is put into action alongside a very good R.E. policy. This creates a learning climate that strengthens the moral and spiritual life of the school community and begins to prepare pupils for life beyond school. Assemblies are well planned, creating situations where pupils may discover or renew values and beliefs through overt and hidden messages in a variety of content and presentation. All staff lead and attend worship. Care is given to present material and activities that make collective worship relevant to the wide range of age and ability of all those present. Participation and discussion are encouraged. A candle is lit during worship and time is given for reflection. Pupils participate and respond well, actively taking part in weekly celebrations and the class family assemblies that parents obviously enjoy and appreciate. The Lord's Prayer is regularly sung during musical praise and collective worship. Its meaning is discussed in KS2. No one is withdrawn on religious grounds. The school has a close relationship with the Team Vicar and St. George's Church is used for special events and festivals.

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 are good. The members of the excellent teaching team are empowered and enabled by the vision and management style of their Head Teacher. All members of the school staff feel involved and appreciated. Although there are few obvious symbols displayed, Christian values underpin the whole life of the school and the ethos speaks for itself. The qualities, skills and talents of the pupils are encouraged and nourished in a well-ordered caring community. In the positive, mutually respectful atmosphere the adults in school provide excellent role models for pupils in their behaviour and relationships. There are strong links with the clergy and church members from the local community. The Chair of the Governors reports annually to the PCC. The agreed badge and mission statement reflect the views of all stakeholders in the school. Parents are satisfied that the school lives up to its philosophy of creating "included, challenged and happy" pupils in an environment imbued with reliably Christian values. Effective use is made of ICT to enhance and support the spiritual dimension across the curriculum.

SIAS report April 2006 Orleton C.E. Primary School, Orleton, Nr Ludlow, SY8 4HQ