

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Palgrave Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

The Green  
Palgrave  
Diss  
Suffolk  
IP22 1AG

**Diocese: St Edmundsbury and Ipswich**

LA: Suffolk

Dates of inspection: 9 March 2006

Date of last inspection: September 2000

School's Unique reference number: 124740

Headteacher: Kim Kelway

Inspector's name and number: Simon Windmill

#### School context

Palgrave CEVCP school is a small three class primary school. The Headteacher, appointed in September 2005, is also Head at another primary school, and is running both schools as a pilot project. The Head's appointment coincided with other staff changes after a long period of stability. Staff look back on the Autumn 05 term as a "settling in" period, and the Ofsted inspection as a time when staff were "brought together". Palgrave is a popular school, and is highly regarded by its community. The Church School's Self Evaluation materials have been used effectively to analyse the school's strengths and areas for development, and give a secure base for further improvements.

#### Summary Judgement

Palgrave school's effectiveness and distinctiveness as a church school is judged to be good. The school has made appropriate plans for further improvements.

#### Established strengths

- The staff and governors provide good role models for learners
- The school's Christian ethos and values play a significant part in underpinning all aspects of school life
- Learners have a positive attitude to Collective Worship
- Learners' behaviour is good

#### Focus for development

- Begin a detailed exploration with governors and staff of how Palgrave's distinctiveness as a Church school can be developed and made more evident.

This will feed into:

- the ongoing review of the Collective Worship policy and themes
- a shared understanding of how learners' spiritual growth can be nurtured
- a review and discussion on how the school's Christian foundation can be reflected by visible signs and symbols

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

The school's provision for meeting the needs of all its learners is good.

Learners feel valued and special, and the Christian ethos and values have a good impact on the school. This is seen in the good relationships within the school, and in its warm, welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. Staff are good role models for learners. Learners are very confident and secure, and readily express their views. They get good care and support in their personal development. Learners' behaviour is good, and learners are pleased that the new behaviour policy has improved behaviour. Learners would welcome more input into the development of class rules. The Buddy system is highly valued by learners, as is the school Council, which effectively takes learners' views to staff and governors. The school is highly regarded by its wider community. The planned development of a policy for learners' spiritual growth is expected to bring a shared understanding of how spiritual development can be nurtured across the curriculum and throughout all aspects of school life.

#### 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 good, and is soundly based on Christian principles. Worship is

clearly marked as a special time by lighting a candle, and by the Anglican greeting and response "The Lord be with you...And also with you". Worship reflects the main events of the Church year, and always includes prayer, praise and teaching. Learners say Grace at lunchtime, and have a good understanding of the purposes of prayer. They would like more opportunities to read their own prayers and be more actively involved in worship. Singing is good, but some learners would like a wider range of hymns to be used. Church links are good. The Vicar leads worship once a week and has a pastoral role in the school. The church is used for special services and other learning activities. The review of the Worship policy will include developing ways of recording, monitoring and evaluating worship. Staff would like training in leading Collective Worship, particularly to help them make worship more reflective, and thus foster spiritual growth. This training is being arranged.

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

Leadership and management is satisfactory, with some good features.

The Head and governors promote the school's Christian ethos and values well. Staff feel valued and supported, and a shared vision for the school is beginning to develop. The Head is planning discussions with staff and governors on how the school's Christian character can be expressed through visual signs and symbols, in a way that staff and governors can feel comfortable and is felt to be appropriate for the school. The leadership team has identified a need to develop systems for regular gathering and evaluation the views of parents and other stakeholders. The practice of a governor's written annual review of worship will be revived. Part of the school's budget will be earmarked for Collective Worship.