

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Peasmarsh Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Lane  
Peasmarsh  
Rye  
East Sussex  
TN31 6UW

#### Diocese: Chichester

LA: East Sussex

Dates of inspection: 13 and 17 July 2006

Date of last inspection: January and February 2001

School's Unique reference number: 114518

Headteacher: Gianni Bianchi

Inspector's name and number: Pat Lock

#### School context

Peasmarsh CE Primary School is a smaller than average rural school situated in Peasmarsh village, a few miles outside the town of Rye. The school consists of 4 mixed age classes. Whilst the majority of the pupils live in the local village, a significant number come from wider neighbouring areas. Pupils have an average level of attainment on entry to the school.

The current main building dates from 1844, and the school is in the process of building a new extension which will provide a new hall and replace two mobile classrooms. Existing areas within the school have been utilised to give a library area, small hall and an ICT/music room. These new facilities will enable the school to develop and enhance the curriculum, including better provision for collective worship. There are 4 class teachers in the school and two part-time teachers. The headteacher is the SENCO and there are 8 support assistants.

#### Summary Judgement

Peasmarsh is a satisfactory church school with some good features. It has a good Christian ethos that permeates all relationships within the school and collective worship is central to the school day. There is a positive nurturing environment in which the pupils flourish. They have a strong sense of belonging to both the school and the village community and this is a significant strength.

The school is well led and managed by the headteacher who has made significant changes in his short time in post. He is aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the school and has identified areas for improvement. The staff work well as a team and are beginning to share the Christian vision of the school. Parents are very supportive of the school and share in all aspects of daily life. They spoke of being highly impressed with the headteacher and of the way the school has improved in recent months.

#### Established strengths

- The very good leadership and vision of the headteacher and the improvements he has made to the school.
- The good quality of relationships between pupils, staff, governors and the local community.
- The care, support and encouragement that is given to all pupils which enables them to be valued as individuals.

#### Focus for development

- To develop and implement an SMSC Policy in accordance with the school improvement plan, that is embedded in practice.
- To continue to raise the quality of collective worship and resources by training all staff and agreeing a shared understanding of its aims within a Church school environment.

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

The school currently makes satisfactory provision for all its pupils. Pupils, parents and governors spoke highly of the supportive, friendly environment that permeates the school and enables pupils to develop in all aspects of their learning and well-being.

Behaviour management is good and pupils appreciate the reward systems that are in place, including reward certificates and golden time. Pupils enjoy school and feel

safe, valued and respected. They feel supported and encouraged. They referred to their teachers who make the lessons fun. Pupils are also aware of what to do in instances of bullying, illness or in dealing with any other concerns they may have. The school council enjoy the responsibility given to them but were also proud of the level of care and friendship that was offered by all older pupils to the younger ones. The staff have recently begun to use the SEAL materials, which are contributing to the development of the Christian ethos of the school through good moral teaching and understanding. The school has good links with the local and wider community and pupils are encouraged to consider the needs of others. This has been demonstrated by their participation in the annual village flower festival and by fund-raising for Africa. The headteacher has excellent plans to develop the school as being distinctively Christian. Improvement is already apparent and this has been acknowledged by staff, governors and parents.

Grade 3

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

Collective worship is an important part of the school day and is inclusive, with a regular pattern of worship throughout the week. The school has recently completed its policy for collective worship and evaluation of worship is partly in place. The quality of worship is inconsistent across the school and does not always focus on a Christian link or meaning and application. However, the school has already identified these issues and drawn up an action plan to address them. There is good evidence of Christian symbols around the school and further plans are in place to include a stained glass window and a reflection corner in the new hall. Small reflection areas are being developed in classrooms. These are variable in standards and are not always a major focus, but this is also a planned development.

The pupils respond well in worship and there is a high expectation of behaviour. They listen well to music from a CD and participate well with a range of songs and hymns. The pupils also write and read their own prayers. Staff from the parish church lead worship on a weekly basis and this is generally based on the Anglican cycle and traditions, although this may also be linked with the school's weekly theme. Services are held regularly in the church and parents are invited to attend. These services have increased recently and both the church and the school are keen to strengthen these links. Parents spoke of the Harvest service which led to the distribution of gifts to the local community and the holding of a coffee morning for elderly residents.

Grade 3

#### **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 effective. The headteacher demonstrates very good leadership skills and has been able to identify areas for development in a very short time, clearly prioritising the needs of the school. He aims to raise the profile of the school as being distinctively Christian and has both the knowledge and capability to lead this forward with the whole staff. He strongly promotes the school's key rule of "Be kind to everybody and everything" and their motto of " Learning, Living, Laughing". There are, however, a number of inexperienced staff in the school who are doing excellent work but are not yet able to carry management responsibilities. The staff work as a good team but there is some vulnerability to the school because it has no deputy headteacher or senior staff. Priority is given to the Every Child Matters agenda and this is clearly behind many of the developments and improvements in the school.

The governors had a sound overview of the school and their standards of monitoring are satisfactory. There are good relationships between staff and governors and regular INSET and social meetings are held.

Parents are very positive about the leadership and management of the school and speak highly of the headteacher.

Grade 3