

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Puller Memorial Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

High Cross,
Ware,
Herts
SG11 1AZ

Diocese: St Albans

LA: Hertfordshire

Dates of inspection: 28th March 2006

Date of last inspection: 2000

School's Unique reference number: 117453

Headteacher: Liz Aitken

Inspector's name and number: Steve Adams

School context

This small village school includes three-year old children in the Foundation/Reception class. English is the first language of all 66 children and their ethnic origin is white. Most children are drawn from the village but the school also attracts children from a neighbouring village. They enter the school with at least average skills, knowledge and understanding. The Christian ethos is present throughout the school and there are links with the nearby parish church where a number of families worship.

Summary Judgement

Puller Memorial is a satisfactory Church school with some good features. The strong Christian leadership exercised by the recently appointed Headteacher has already begun to make an impact on the developing vision for the school. Christian teachers and supportive parents are contributing to this development and this is beginning to make an impact on all learners.

Established strengths

- The vision and leadership of the Headteacher;
- The partnership between the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors;
- The clear pupil voice through the School Council;
- The good support of the parents for the school.

Focus for development

- To raise standards in Religious Education by learning from religion and by increasing opportunities for active learning through drama and discussion.
- To apply the assessment criteria in levelling children's work;
- To increase the distinctiveness of the school's Christian character, for example; by displaying artefacts in the entrance to the school and the use of candles as a focus for worship;
- To revise, as a matter of urgency, the admissions policy and criteria for entry to the school, in order to meet current requirements;

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

Grade 3

This school makes satisfactory provision for the learners. Positive relationships across the school, some artefacts, Bible quotations displayed in classrooms, and also the Mission Statement, demonstrate the Christian values of this Church school. The school makes a satisfactory impact on the learners' social, moral, spiritual and cultural education through regular links with three other schools in their cluster which provide joint activities. School Council has a good impact on the children who represent the views of all children showing that the school values them as individuals. The majority do well at school and are given the opportunity to fulfil their potential, moving confidently on to their secondary schools. Older and younger pupils work well together, for example, in organising and holding a Jumble Sale which raised funds for an animal project. The children show satisfactory attitudes towards each other and the school has plans to introduce values education in the Autumn

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

Grade 3

Regular acts of worship give at least satisfactory experiences of worship through Bible stories, use of puppets, singing, reflection and prayer. These are led by members of staff. Worship is Christian in character and the frequency of church visits

is increasing to include times other than the main festivals. The introduction of a school Eucharist could be considered in the future. Speakers from within and outside the church community visit regularly, to lead assembly and the children speak positively about these experiences. Children learn particular Bible verses, which are written out and displayed in classrooms, so that they can commit them to memory. This assists the spiritual and moral development of all learners. The children listened attentively and took part in the two assemblies observed, answering questions appropriately and joining in the singing. However, the experience of worship would be enhanced by providing a focus for attention – maybe a lighted candle or a picture.

How effective is the religious education?

Grade 3

Curriculum time, resources and commitment are recognised and the quality of the learning and teaching makes a satisfactory impact on the pupils' spiritual development, but the impact should be increased through learning from religion and through continuing professional development. Although the children could remember the events of Holy Week, the use of drama and discussion, for example exploring the emotions of the disciples at the Last Supper, would lead to more active and effective learning. An enactment of washing the disciples' feet with Year 1 /2 was particularly effective and engaged the children more dynamically. Awareness of other faiths was evident in children's writing, and the display about Islam celebrated diversity. Writing standards were at least satisfactory and comparable with those in other subjects, but the assessment which has begun with the subject leader, should now be

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

Grade 2 Close collaborative working between the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors is now providing good leadership of a Christian school. The capacity to improve is good. Parents support the recent developments and feel that the Headteacher is beginning to address the need for an improvement in the behaviour and attitudes of the children. The foundation governors could now play a more active monitoring role.

SIAS report March 2006 Puller Memorial CE Primary School, High Cross, Ware, Herts SG11 1AZ