

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Rauceby Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Tom Lane  
North Rauceby  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 8QW

**Diocese: Lincoln**

LA: Lincolnshire

Dates of inspection: 28 & 29 March 2006

Date of last inspection: October 2000

School's Unique reference number: 120669

Headteacher: Mr Tom Verity

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Meg Hackney (NS 198)

#### School context

Rauceby Church of England Primary School is located in very attractive countryside and serves a number of surrounding villages including North and South Rauceby. It is a popular school with a high level of parental support. Pupils are of mainly white British heritage and many are from a more advantaged background. The school has close links with the church and the local community.

#### Summary Judgement

The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England school is good with some outstanding features.

#### Established strengths

- The vision and commitment of the headteacher, staff and governors in continuing to develop the strong links with the church and the local community.
- The excellent relationships and the value placed on every individual in the school.
- The high quality of collective worship led by the headteacher and parish priest which makes a strong contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development.
- The Christian ethos which underpins all areas of the school's work.
- Pupils' excellent behaviour throughout the school, and the very positive attitude and enjoyment they express during collective worship.

#### Focus for development

There are no major issues for development. The following suggestions have been discussed with the headteacher:

- Consider adopting a School Prayer which could be prominently displayed for pupils to learn and say together regularly during collective worship and at the special services held in church.
- Consider ways in which pupils of all ages are encouraged to become more familiar with the Lord's Prayer and its meaning so that they are able to join in confidently during acts of worship.

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

The school through its distinctive Christian character makes good provision for all learners.

Christian values and principles are at the very heart of the school. Pupils learn in a very caring and supportive environment where their achievements are recognised and celebrated. Relationships are excellent and pupils feel valued and secure. The Christian ethos strongly underpins all aspects of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and this is an important part of the school's work. Pupils speak proudly about their school and they are very enthusiastic about their involvement in the many opportunities and activities provided for them. During lessons and collective worship pupils are effectively encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings about a wide range of issues affecting their own lives and the lives of others. They do this confidently and often reflect on matters linked to the world around them, the changing seasons and the Christian calendar. The school's indoor and outdoor environment is used well to encourage spiritual development. An example of this was seen when pupils shared their observations of the signs of Spring in the grounds and the countryside around the school.

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

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

Collective worship is an integral and important part of the school day enjoyed by all. There is a strong sense of community and pupils express their enjoyment through singing and thoughtfully responding to prayer and reflection. The policy for collective worship clearly states the school's Aims of providing the opportunity for pupils to worship God and explore their own beliefs. Daily worship is well planned and imaginatively presented by both the headteacher and the parish priest. The themes for worship are good and based firmly on Christian beliefs and values. Pupils in all classes listen very attentively and confidently answer questions and share their ideas and observations. The quality of singing is outstanding and a significant strength of the school. Collective worship makes an excellent contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The act of worship led by the parish priest was very well planned and presented. Pupils were fully engaged throughout and this confirmed the very warm relationship between the priest and pupils. Pupils listened attentively to a well chosen story and then reflected on Jesus' anger in the Temple and the things which made them angry. Many pupils were keen to answer questions and to share their views and experiences with each other. During prayers pupils responded well and showed a clear respect and reverence for the occasion. They sang very tunefully expressing great enjoyment and enthusiasm. At the end of the day pupils were delighted to receive a palm cross provided by the church.

**How effective is the religious education?**

The collective worship led by the headteacher was outstanding. Excellent use was made of a Spring scene and music from 'The Four Seasons'. A wonderful sense of community and spiritual experience pervaded the dimly-lit hall and this led to quiet and calm reflection about the developing signs of Spring. Many pupils responded very thoughtfully by suggesting titles for the picture and they were encouraged to consider the idea of 'hope' and 'new life'. The theme was very well planned and created a sense of excitement and appreciation of the outside world amongst many pupils. The quality of singing was outstanding and pupils of all ages expressed great enjoyment and enthusiasm. They responded well to the prayer which was read confidently by an older pupil.

**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 good.

The headteacher has a firm commitment and provides good leadership of the school as a Church of England school. The strong support of the chair of governors, staff and the parish priest ensures that the school's Christian character and beliefs are firmly embedded. The school's Aims are closely linked to Christian principles and values which underpin all areas of its work. This creates a very warm, caring and happy environment for learning and makes a considerable impact on pupils' spiritual and moral development. The school has well established links with the church and pupils attend church regularly to take a leading role in special services throughout the Church's Year. With the arrival of the new parish priest there is now an even broader vision for extending the church/school links further including the curriculum and activities in the community. The school is actively supported by the Bishop's Visitor who regularly leads assemblies and helps in classrooms.

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