

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Rothley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Mountsorrel Lane

Rothley

Leicestershire

LE7 7PS

Diocese: Leicester

LA: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 5th – 9th June 2006

Date of last inspection: 25th May 2006

School's Unique reference number: 120155

Headteacher: Mrs Fiona Parr

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Diana Saunders / 132

School context

Rothley Church of England (Controlled) Primary School is situated in the large village of Rothley, between Leicester and Loughborough. The catchment area covers the village, which includes a range of housing from modest to very large properties.

There is a small council estate within the village. Whilst children come from a mix of social backgrounds, they are predominantly middle and higher income families.

Almost all children have pre-school experiences. The school reports that attainment on entry is generally average.

Summary Judgement

The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England Primary School is outstanding.

Established strengths

- Outstanding relationships between Church and School.
- Very effective Headteacher whose personal faith is instrumental in the development of the Christian ethos of the school.
- Very good relationships at all levels throughout school.
- An outstanding Christian ethos in the school, in which all pupils are nurtured and valued highly.

Focus for development

- To establish strategies for evaluation of Acts of Worship, involving the Governing Body.
- To provide training with the support of the Diocese, for other staff who may then be included in leading acts of worship.

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

The school meets the needs of all learners well.

The school is highly inclusive and all in school are special and valued. The school has a warm and welcoming atmosphere and both adults and children clearly feel valued as individuals, taking pride in their environment and their learning. The children are confident. The school has a successful reward and house system. The Christian ethos in the school is strong and permeates all aspects of school life.

Christian values are evident in all parts of the school. The school has appropriate policies rooted in Christian values. The school goes out of its way to involve parents in all aspects of their children's education. Children clearly enjoy worship and participate fully. The children are also given the opportunity to pray at the end of the day. The school is working to develop further opportunities to enhance children's spiritual development through a residential retreat, or similar. All children have high expectations for their own achievement.

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

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is outstanding.

The daily Act of Collective Worship is clearly very important and has an effect on the whole life of the school. Children come into worship quietly, behave extremely well and take part in worship enthusiastically. The pupils have clear, positive views about the daily Act of Worship and talk about it enthusiastically. They enjoy the feeling of stillness and opportunity for reflection and prayer. During the collective worship seen in the Inspection (Pentecost) children were given real experiences of power (balloon) and were given the opportunity to reflect and pray. Worship reflects the broad

spectrum of the Christian and Anglican tradition that underscores the school's foundation. The school has a policy and clear plans for worship and these are fully implemented. Visiting clergy and speakers are fully involved in the planning. Pupils are often involved in helping to lead the worship. Worship has clear links into the curriculum and tasks suggested during worship are discussed in classes at other times in the day. Pupils and staff attend worship and although the prospectus clearly states that parents have the right to withdraw their children from worship, none chooses to do so. The table at the front of the hall and the screen above, provide a clear focus for worship. There are very strong links with the local Church and clergy. The Church and school work as a team and provide a distinctive Christian ethos and vision for the school. Worship permeates the whole school and materials used as a focus for worship are then displayed elsewhere in school. There is excellent contribution from the clergy and the church community to school life. The Church and the community are fully aware of and support the school aims.

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 and improving.

The relatively new Headteacher (in post since Autumn 2005) works closely with the staff and Chairman of Governors to provide strong, clear leadership. Leadership ensures that all pupils are secure in a well-ordered purposeful, calm and welcoming learning environment that is based on and reflects Christian values. The Headteacher is committed to the distinctive Christian ethos of the school and she provides appropriate example and witness to pupils and staff. The Governing Body made the Christian status of the school and its importance very clear in all paperwork and interviews regarding the new headship. The trust and confidence that the leadership of the school generates creates a learning community which has high expectations and reflects Christian values in a climate of worship, achievement and celebration. The foundation governors strongly promote the meaning of the Christian status of the school and now need to become fully involved in the evaluation of worship and the impact it has on the school. The school strongly promotes and communicates its Christian foundation through vision, mission, symbols in school, displays, signage and school badges on uniforms. The school has addressed the issues raised in previous inspections.

SIAS report June 2006 Rothley Church of England (Controlled) Primary School Mountsorrel Lane Rothley Leicestershire LE7 7PS