

Rowde Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Marsh Lane

Rowde

Devizes

Wilts SN10 2NP

Diocese of Salisbury

Wiltshire LEA

SIAS inspection: 7 November 2005

Previous S23 inspection: 12-13 December 2000

URN: 126409

Headteacher: Mr David Ball

SIAS Inspector NS#109: Sandra Symonds

Summary Judgement

Rowde Primary School is an outstandingly distinctive and effective church school. It is a school firmly underpinned by Christian values. The Headteacher and governors have a clear Christian vision and high expectations. The pupils are secure and happy.

Established strengths

- Learners from all groups feel valued and special
- Relationships within the school community which are exemplary
- The teaching of R.E. which is good
- High values given by the Senior Management team to the Christian values of respect and caring for each other. These are clear to see reflected in the behaviour and attitudes of the children

Focus for development

- To continue to develop the good strategies for assessment in R.E. already begun this term
- To establish a policy for Spiritual development which embeds the good practice currently observed around the school.
- To develop the recording and assessment of Collective Worship by encouraging the children to assess and evaluate collective worship through the worship focus.
- Continue to develop links with the wider church community to enrich the spiritual experience of the learners.

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

The school makes excellent provision to meet the needs of all its learners. Learners from all groups feel valued and special including those who have special educational needs and those who are experiencing difficulties. There is a special room within the school (The Rainbow Room) where children who are experiencing difficulties receive help and all the pupils felt excited and valued by being able to be a part of this (even those who did not go felt it was an experience they would like to receive!) Learners of all types flourish and fulfil their potential through the value and self esteem given to them. Their academic achievement is high in relation to prior attainment. The opportunities offered for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are very good and the school needs to celebrate this in a clear policy statement. Relationships within the school community are exemplary and characterised by Christian care and concern for others. The school council exemplifies aspects of this for example it was their suggestion of a quiet area for reflection in the playground that brought this change about.

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

Worship occupies an important place in the life of the school and is a key element in its Christian witness. Pupils enjoy the worship and parent comments support the positive effect it has on them. The school has no learners from other faiths but provides good teaching in understanding and acceptance of other religions and attitudes. A questionnaire to years five and six concluded that the majority of pupils thought collective worship was important and helped them in the way they lived their lives and at difficult times. The pupils used the time of reflection well and were able to talk about how they valued it and how it had a positive affect on their school lives later. The Good Works assemblies, where the pupils organised what they would present and chose elements of school life to show, were much appreciated by parents and children. One parent commented about how these reflected the school's focus on Christian morals.

How effective is the religious education?

Achievement in relation to the learner's background and prior attainment is very good and those with SEN make very good progress, as was evident from the work seen. All pupils interviewed spoke positively about R.E, had good knowledge and understanding and could confidently talk about the subject in a very positive manner. A questionnaire to years five and six resulted in the majority maintaining that they enjoyed R.E. and that it helped them in the way they lived their lives. The lessons observed were good. The school is just developing an assessment system and is also just about to take on board the New Wiltshire Syllabus. There is a relatively new co ordinator, who having undertaken several training courses is already leading the school in assessment and has a clear vision for the future development of the subject.

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

The Headteacher and the governors provide exceptionally effective leadership and work in close partnership. They have been heavily involved in organising and developing the new school, fully attending public meetings, P.C.C. meetings and representing the school fully in the planning process. All members of the school are aware of its church foundation. Governors have recently drafted an ethos statement broadly based on the ten commandments which firmly embeds the school's Christian purpose and that they hope will lend itself to becoming a code of conduct for all members of the school community. Learners and their parents speak appreciatively of the Christian ethos and staff feel valued and supported. Parents are regularly consulted through parent questionnaires and the Rowde School Association. The school has a close relationship with the community, the children make the Palm Crosses for the church for Palm Sunday and the Harvest produce collected at their Harvest Service goes to the elderly in the area. There have been many occasions when the children have spontaneously offered to undertake fund raising for appeals such as the Tsunami something which the leadership of the school has encouraged.

SIAS NOVEMBER 2005 Rowde CE VA Primary School, Wiltshire SN10 2NP