

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Sarum St. Paul's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Westminster Road,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
SP2 7DG

Diocese: Salisbury

LA: Wiltshire

Dates of inspection: 28 June 2006

Date of last inspection: 6 and 7 July 2004

School's Unique reference number: 126411

Headteacher: Mrs. Jennifer Larsson

Inspector's name and number: Mrs. Rosemary Davis

School context

This is an average sized (215 pupils) Church of England Primary School on the outskirts of the city of Salisbury. It is within walking distance of the church and Cathedral. The modern building and attractive grounds are very well kept. Pupils are drawn mostly from the catchment area with some attracted by the Church of England status and the ethos. There is a wide range of social and economic backgrounds with a few pupils from minor ethnic groups. The school has a small unit for pupils with hearing impairment. There have been a considerable number of staff changes in the last year.

Summary Judgement

This is a good church school and reflects its Christian foundation well. The strong Christian ethos is fundamental to all areas of school life and supports a caring and learning environment for all. This effective and distinctive environment provides for spiritual and moral growth with a strong emphasis on trust.

Established strengths

- The distinctive Christian ethos of the school in which pupils are nurtured and valued and have excellent pastoral care
- The partnership with foundation governors, church and clergy
- Strong and productive relationships within the school and with parents and the local community
- The outstanding clear vision and high expectations of the Headteacher

Focus for development

- Extend the planning of collective worship to include all interested parties and to formalise record keeping to allow for effective evaluation
- Embed the newly adapted syllabus for RE and resource this with books and artefacts
- Develop wider multicultural links, both nationally and internationally

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

The school through its distinctive Christian character is good with some outstanding features. The school's Christian ethos underpins all policies and practices resulting in excellent provision for the needs of all learners including the hearing impaired. Pupils feel valued and special. The relationships within the school community enable all pupils to feel secure and enjoy a positive learning environment and the expectations of good behaviour encourage pupils to be kind and considerate. The student council is skilled and proficient and allows many opportunities for pupils to confidently put forward their views. Christian values of care and concern for others underpin all areas of school life making the school a welcoming environment. Spiritual development, such as personal prayers and time for reflection, are excellent and pupils show maturity in their capacity for reflection. Close collaboration with the foundation governors and the church is particularly strong. The charity efforts of the pupils include donations to the Trussell Trust which provide for local families in difficulties. Parents recognise and value the school's Christian status.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good and is central to the life of the school. Daily worship is clearly inclusive, imaginatively planned and presented. Excellent use is made of the school's link with the local church and other

Christian denominations in the area. All staff, the vicar and St. Paul's children's worker lead worship. An embroidered frontal piece and candle are used as an effective focal point. Pupils talk positively about their experience of worship and respond enthusiastically to stories and singing. They are familiar with prayers including the Lord's Prayer and demonstrate a reflective attitude to worship. Major Christian festivals are celebrated in both school and church and serve to emphasise Anglican traditions. Parents welcome the invitations to class and celebration assemblies and their feedback provides evidence of the positive impact of worship on the learners. Worship contributes to pupils' understanding of moral Christian values and supports spiritual development.

How effective is the religious education?

Religious Education is good. It is recognised by governors and staff as being of particular importance in a church school and this is reflected in the Improvement Plan, time allocation and resourcing. The revised Agreed Syllabus, amended with guidance from the Diocese, is now being implemented. Pupils have a good knowledge of Christianity and other faiths. In an observed lesson, pupils confidently discussed the Synagogue and the Church in order to compare and contrast different faiths. Lessons observed showed detailed, thoughtful planning and differentiation of task with the older pupils working at four different levels to understand 'The Plagues'. Work sampling, monitoring and assessment of RE by co-ordinators are supporting improvement. Standards of achievement by the pupils are reflected in their discussions and workbooks where constructive comments aid progress. RE makes a significant contribution to the pupils' spiritual and moral development.

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 are good with some outstanding features. The Headteacher is contributing significantly to its success as a church school. Her leadership is excellent. She has an understanding of the local community and has a clear vision and high expectations based on Christian values. The quality of relationships between foundation governors, staff and pupils is a cornerstone of the school's work. This provides learners with good role models of living out the Christian life in practice. The school has a very strong partnership with the local church, clergy, congregation and Diocese. Teachers and support staff are valued as members of the staff team. Parents are regularly consulted on matters of current interest and appreciate the 'open door' policy together with the speed and effectiveness with which all staff respond to any concern. Parents know it is a church school with a special ethos and that pupils from all backgrounds are welcome and supported.

SIAS report June 2006 Sarum St. Paul's (VA) Primary School Westminster Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7DG