

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Seal Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Zambra Way,  
Seal,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent  
TN15 0DJ

**Diocese: Rochester**

LA: Kent

Dates of inspection: 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June 2006

Date of last inspection: 2000

School's Unique reference number: 118605

Headteacher: Miss Tracey Smith

Inspector's name and number: Mr. Jim Bishop. N.S.no.174

#### School context

Seal Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a smaller than average school of 100 pupils. Nearly all pupils are from its immediate community and a significant proportion is White British. Only a small percentage of pupils are from worshipping church families. The majority of pupils make good progress throughout their school lives and leave with average standards. The headteacher took up her post two years ago.

#### Summary Judgement

Seal Church of England Primary School is a good, inclusive and caring Church school. Overall grade 2: GOOD

#### Established strengths

- There is a strong sense of community and a caring and inclusive ethos.
- The school's Christian values impact exceptionally well on its pupils and enable them to flourish as individuals.
- Pupils, parents and carers feel especially valued.
- There are strong and increasingly productive links with the parish church.

#### Focus for development

The Governing Body should be the driving force behind the school's self-evaluation as a Church School, and it should follow the Diocesan agenda for this. In particular, it should ensure a clear system for monitoring and improving Collective Worship.

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

Grade 2: Good. This is a happy, caring and welcoming school. Through its distinctive Christian character, it makes good provision for the needs of all its pupils. It is highly successful in the ways in which it encourages Christian values, reflected in the pupils' sense of worth and responsibility and their concern for others. Additionally, throughout the school, pupils and staff are very aware of the need to show and accept forgiveness in their daily lives. Within the school, pupils' spiritual development is good and is particularly promoted by Religious Education (RE) and the Christian teaching they receive in Collective Worship. The school has a very good record of charitable giving and concern for its local community. An example of this is the support given to Dalton House School for the Blind. Through this link, older pupils have developed a marked sense of understanding and empathy with the wider world. RE provides a sound foundation in Christianity and a clear and sensitive introduction to other world faiths. Relationships in the school are good, modelled on Christian values and virtues. Parents and carers praise the education that their children are receiving and also speak of being made very welcome and feeling greatly valued.

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

Grade 3: Satisfactory. Worship occupies a secure place in the life of the school; and acts of worship are consistently of at least sound quality. Worship is Christian, although not always explicitly so. It is good, therefore, that the lay-reader of St Peter's and St Paul's Church regularly leads acts of worship at the school, and that pupils celebrate important festivals in the church throughout the year. However, records of worship followed in recent terms indicate some inconsistency in the planning of appropriate Christian themes and their content. Additionally, insufficient attention is paid to the extent to which the quality of worship supports pupils' learning and understanding. The worship co-ordinator is satisfactorily effective but has

received inadequate training. Appropriately in a Church of England School, pupils are becoming familiar with Anglican prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer; and also know about the Church Year. Pupils enjoy worship and willingly participate. They find the stories interesting, including those from the Bible, and many relate them to their daily lives. Church services at Christmas and the end of the academic year are particularly well supported by parents and friends, as are the individual class assemblies in the school hall. Prayer helps pupils' spiritual development: they readily pray during acts of worship, say grace before meals, and many use the prayer-table in the main hall. All staff attend daily Collective Worship, which has a positive effect on the quality and effectiveness of the school's caring community life.

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

Grade 2: Good. The headteacher provides most effective leadership, which contributes significantly to the Christian vision of the school. The school's Mission Statement and policies make clear reference to its Christian character; and the headteacher, staff and governors provide good role models with regard to Christian values. Governors are regularly involved in the school, and Foundation Governors actively promote the school's Christian status. However, the governing body is insufficiently involved in the school's self-evaluation process relating to the checking and improving of the overall quality and effectiveness of the school as a Church school. There are strong and developing links with the parish church. The new priest-in-charge regularly visits the school, consults effectively with the headteacher, and has started a pupils' Singing Club. Under the leadership of the headteacher and assisted by the priest-in-charge, the school's partnership with the local community is developing very well and is becoming a major strength of school life.

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