

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Spofforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Spofforth Lane,  
Spofforth,  
Harrogate,  
HG3 1BA

**Diocese: Bradford, Ripon and Leeds**

LA: North Yorkshire

Dates of inspection: 4 May 2006

Date of last inspection: 17,18,27 September 2000

School's Unique reference number: 121592

Headteacher: Mrs. Jane Turner

Inspector's name and number: Liz Foster

#### School context

The school is a small rural Church of England primary school serving an area of social advantage to the south of Harrogate. It has 91 children, nearly all of whom are from a white ethnic background and no children are in the early stages of learning English. Four pupils are from faiths other than Christian. The numbers of children entering or leaving the school during the year is above average. The headteacher began as acting head in January 2005 and was appointed to the permanent position from April 2005.

#### Summary Judgement

The school is a good church school that reflects its Christian foundation well. The school's distinctively positive ethos is rooted in strong Christian principles that are lived out in practice by the whole school community. This creates a very caring and secure environment for learning in which all pupils are nurtured and valued highly. The headteacher and governing body are effective in implementing a clear vision for the school and for what it can offer to its community.

#### Established strengths

- The Christian ethos of the school in which the contribution of all pupils to the life of the school is highly valued
- Relationships at all levels within the school are exemplary and are characterised by Christian values
- Strong leadership by the headteacher valued highly by pupils, parents, staff and governors
- Very good links with the local church and community

#### Focus for development

- Review the arrangements for Collective Worship and develop monitoring and evaluation strategies to further enhance its quality and impact.
- Review the mission statement, values and aims and ensure that the distinctive nature of the school is clearly stated in all documentation.

#### 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 in meeting the needs of all learners. The Christian ethos in the school is strong and permeates many aspects of the school's life from displays through to classroom practice. Pupils' spiritual, moral and social development is good. This is as a result of a total commitment to the development of the whole child within a very caring and supportive environment. The school's inclusive approach is much appreciated by parents and children. The atmosphere around the school is relaxed, friendly and orderly and pupils' behaviour and attitudes are very good. Staff provide very good role models for the children. This is seen in the high quality of relationships evident in the school. Pupils are courteous and considerate to each other and adults in school and are rightly proud of their school. Pupils contribute very effectively to the life of their school, for example through the four 'Squads'. Achievement across all areas of the curriculum and school life is valued and celebrated in the weekly Sharing Assemblies that are highly valued by staff, parents and children.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. Worship plays an important part in the life of the pupils who have responded well to improvements introduced, such as the increased and regular opportunities provided for prayer. There is a daily act of worship for all children. Major Christian festivals, following the pattern of the Anglican church year, are celebrated both in school and in church. All staff lead acts of worship but not all staff attend the daily acts of worship. Children respond well, listen carefully and participate through singing, prayer and reflection. Attitudes to collective worship are very positive with children recognising it as a special time of the day during which they feel relaxed and calm. Local clergy make an effective contribution to collective worship. Although there is a worship coordinator, the school has recognised the need to continue to prioritise improvements to the arrangements for planning, monitoring and evaluating the quality and impact of worship.

**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 had a significant impact on the school's development as a church school and is strongly supported by staff, governors and parents. She successfully articulates and models a personal vision for the school that reflects its Christian foundation. Governors and particularly Foundation Governors are fully involved in challenging and supporting the headteacher in realising this vision. The staff work very well as a team, relationships are exemplary and contribute much to the Christian ethos of the school. The school has established itself firmly in the local community and links with the church have been strengthened since the school was last inspected. Parents offer very good support for religious events and speak highly of the school's special quality that enables their children to flourish as individuals.

SIAS report May 2006 Spofforth C of E Primary School, Spofforth Lane, Spofforth, Harrogate, HG3 1BA