

St Augustine's Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School

Palmerston Road

Woodston

Peterborough

PE2 9DH

Diocese of Ely

Peterborough LEA

SIAS inspection: 17 and 25 November 2005

Previous S23 inspection: 18 September 2000

URN: 110853

Headteacher: Mr S Cutts

SIAS Inspector NS#205: Mr PWC Adams

Context

St Augustine's is situated in a well-established residential area to the South of Peterborough. The majority of the pupils come from the area and have previously attended the nearby Infant School (which does not have a church foundation). Some pupils come from outside the catchment area because of the Christian ethos of the school. There are a higher than average number of children with SEN at the school. St Augustine's has pleasant modern buildings with recent additions. There are currently 7 classes with 188 pupils on roll.

Summary Judgement

St Augustine's is a good Church of England school, providing a distinctive and effective education with many outstanding features.

The school has very secure self-evaluation procedures.

Established strengths

- The school has a very positive and inclusive ethos that gives a real sense of community.
- There are high expectations in terms of behaviour, social etiquette and personal responsibility for the learners.
- Strong links to the local community and charity work
- Excellent work in RE, integrating aspects of the syllabus into Topic based work.

Focus for development

- At this stage in its development the school would benefit from a closer relationship with the local church including planned and regular input from personnel from the parish, more opportunities to use the church building and greater pastoral support for the school community.
- The school should look for opportunities to engage with other faith communities from the area, particularly in the RE opportunities it offers.

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

St Augustine's makes outstanding provision to meet the needs of all its learners through its distinctive Christian character. Relationships within the school are of a high order, being mutually supportive and characterised by Christian care and consideration for others. Learners from other faith backgrounds are valued and thrive in the inclusive environment. Achievement is recognised and rewarded for both academic, sporting and 'loving actions'. School assemblies often include presentation of awards which are appreciated and valued by the children. The school provides curriculum enrichment in a variety of ways including many clubs and activities such as guitar, recorder, football, art, computer and gym. The children's ECO council makes a real contribution to the community. The vision of the school includes a care for all aspects of school life within Christian values. There is interest in well-being, healthy attitudes, courtesy and consideration for others.

What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good. Worship is well planned and prepared and provides a focus for each day. The lighting of a candle and accompanying responses are used to remind the children that 'Jesus, the light of the world, is with us'. The worship is designed to develop children's understanding of Anglican faith and practice. Children from other faith backgrounds are made welcome and the worship provides appropriate spiritual development for all, with opportunities for reflection and prayer. The children are attentive and participate in a positive way with responses, readings and especially in the singing. The theme and content of worship helps the children to focus on Christian values, which are evident in the general behaviour through the school. Members of staff, visitors and the children themselves lead collective worship on occasions.

How effective is the Religious Education in the school?

Religious Education at the school is good. RE is seen as an important part of the curriculum, it is well led and co-ordinated. The standards and levels of achievement are good. A generous time allocation is given to the subject in all year groups and there is an appropriate budget allocation for resources and training. There are many displays and evidence of good quality work throughout the school. Schemes of work are effective and include integrated and cross-curricula material. The children have a good understanding and knowledge of the subject. Visitors are used to good effect to enrich the experience for the learners. Some impressive work on the Jewish faith and customs, included input from a local Methodist minister. The teaching of RE contributes to the moral and spiritual development of the children, this is evident in the care and love of God's creation through environmental issues. The school has been awarded the prestigious International Green Flag Award through its work in this area. St Augustine's has put on several musical productions with Biblical themes and special whole school RE days including an Easter activities day are a feature of each year.

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 and staff work closely as a team and have been involved in drawing up the vision for the school. The headteacher gives a secure and inspirational lead in the promotion of the ethos. This gives a clear sense of purpose and encourages Christian values across the school community. The adults in the school are good role models and provide direction for the high expectations of behaviour, care and respect for the individual that characterises the school. The Governors are supportive of the school leadership and actively promote the Christian ethos. St Augustine's supports local and international charities and enjoys the goodwill of the local community in a variety of fundraising and outreach activities. The school has been successful in gaining a number of awards including Investors in People, Artsmark and Achievemark which link to the Christian vision. The school leadership has tried repeatedly to engage with the parish, but to date, opportunities for mutual support and interaction have been limited.