

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Hanley Swan, St. Gabriel's with St. Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hanley Swan

Worcester

WR8 0EQ

**Diocese: Worcester**

LA: Worcestershire

Dates of inspection: 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Date of last inspection: 2000

School's Unique reference number: 116817

Headteacher: Mrs Anna Streater

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Lesley Towey 123

#### School context

Hanley Swan St. Gabriel's with St. Mary's C of E Primary School is a small rural primary school with 102 pupils on role. The school serves an area of mixed housing and 36% of pupils are from outside of the catchment area. Currently 27% of pupils are on the SEN register.

#### Summary Judgement

Hanley Swan St. Gabriel's with St. Mary's C of E Primary School is a good church school with some aspects of very good practice. Christian principles are fundamental to the life of the school and underpin the day to day life of the community. Relationships within the school are excellent and learners are made to feel valued and special. The effective use of the school council ensures that learners' voices are heard and acted upon to bring about changes in the learning environment.

#### Established strengths

- The excellent relationships which exist throughout the school arising from the family based ethos. In particular the role of the headteacher in promoting and modelling these relationships.
- The links which exist between the school and the wider community, in particular the wider church community.
- The extent to which the individual is recognised, valued and supported.
- The effective School Council and its positive impact on the learning environment.
- The effective involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, including parents and learners, in the process of evaluation.

#### Focus for development

- To be clearer about what it means to be a Church School and how this is communicated.
- To widen learners experiences of prayer.
- To increase pupil involvement in whole school collective worship.
- To increase opportunities for links with the parish church through worship.
- To introduce monitoring and evaluation of worship which involves pupils.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners in a good way.

The uniqueness of the individual is central to the ethos of the school and evident in the day to day experiences of learners. The school promotes Christian values and there is a strong sense of family which underpins the excellent relationships which can be found throughout the school. There are clear mission, ethos and aims statements which make specific reference to the school's Christian foundation. The school provides well for the needs of individual learners and ensures that pupil voices are integral to the monitoring and evaluation of progress. Children with special educational needs make the same progress as their peers and efforts are made to ensure that all children are included in all aspects of school life. The school council is effective in enabling views and opinions of all pupils to be listened to in a constructive

way and there is clear evidence of this resulting in improvements being made to the learning environment. Both pupils and parents report that they feel that their views will be listened to and acted upon where appropriate. The school is working hard to integrate the outcomes of Every Child Matters into the life of the school to the benefit of all pupils.

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

The impact of collective worship on the learner is satisfactory

Pupils attend a daily act of collective worship which is overtly Christian. They are able to articulate reasons for this daily worship which include references to God, praise, thanksgiving and prayer as well as appreciation of the opportunity which worship provides to reinforce the sense of community within the school. They were able to identify aspects of worship which they particularly liked and also to make constructive suggestions regarding changes they would like to see. In particular pupils would like to be much more involved in worship, through drama, music, writing and leading prayers and selecting hymns and songs. Generally pupils enjoy singing during worship and they sing with enthusiasm. Worship usually includes a time of reflection for pupils to consider their own response to the theme although care should be taken to ensure that this opportunity is offered more consistently. Pupils put their hand together and close their eyes for prayer and lack experience of the wide range of other possible styles and types of prayer.

There is currently no formal means of monitoring and evaluation of collective worship with the result that it is hard for the school to assess the extent to which pupils and staff value and derive personal benefit from it. Pupils report that they would appreciate being involved on a regular basis in such evaluation and their views should then be used to inform planning.

The school enjoys good links with the local Anglican Church. These are made visible in the support offered by the vicar. Pupils experience various aspects of Anglican worship during their time in the school but opportunities for worship in the church and/or alongside the parish congregation are limited.

**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 Christian foundation of the school is clearly articulated in its mission statement and prospectus and demonstrated through the care and concern for all members of the school family modelled by the headteacher and shown by all members of staff. Although the head and governors are clear that the ethos of the school is derived from the Christian foundation, this is not always made explicit. The name of the school, which is admittedly long, is frequently shortened to 'Hanley Swan Primary School' for example on notices around the school, pupil bags and the school badge, with the result that the majority of pupils on the school council did not know the full name of the school, or what it meant. There is also a lack of Christian symbols around the school to alert visitors to the school's foundation.

The views of pupils and parents are integral to the ongoing processes of evaluation and school development and there is active involvement of the governing body in all aspects of school life. The views of parents are sought through a comprehensive questionnaire and pupil voices are heard through the effective use of the school council. Both pupils and parents are confident that their views will be listened to and acted upon. Pupils benefit from the effective use which is made of volunteer helpers from the local community in both curriculum and non-curriculum activities. The links between the school and the wider community, including the parish, are very good and mutually supportive.