

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Titchmarsh Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Lane,
Titchmarsh,
Kettering,
Northamptonshire,
NN14 3DR

Diocese of Peterborough

LEA: Northamptonshire

Dates of inspection: 19 January 2006

Date of last inspection: 14-17 January 2002

School's Unique reference number: 281150

Headteacher: Mrs J Milton

SIAS Inspector NS 186 Mrs S A Parkinson assisted by Mrs A Spence

School context

Titchmarsh Primary School is a small rural village school accommodating pupils from Foundation stage to year 4. There are currently 57 pupils on role. Most pupils come from the villages of Titchmarsh and Thrapston although some parents living further away choose to send their children to this school where class size is small. Most children are from white British families and only two children are from ethnic minority groups. One pupil has a physical disability but does not yet have a statement. The Headteacher was appointed in April 2005 having been acting Head for the previous two terms. Previously she was a part time teacher at the school for three years. The school is currently in the process of refurbishment which includes a large building programme.

Summary Judgement

Titchmarsh Primary School provides a good Christian education through its ethos and its caring environment. There is clear capacity for development and this has already begun since the headteacher's recent appointment.

Established strengths

The children enjoy school and feel safe and secure.

Parents value the ethos of the school and all members of the community are very supportive of each other.

Close and positive links with the village church and the wider Christian family within the Deanery.

The Commitment of governors and Friends of Titchmarsh School to ensure pupils have positive experiences in the best environment it is possible to provide.

The headteacher's enthusiasm for future development which is shared by the network of adults involved in the daily running of the school.

Focus for development

Develop further the planning, monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship and set targets for future development.

Ensure that specific funding is available from the main budget for staff training to support teaching and learning in RE and Collective Worship.

Explore the wider traditions of Anglican practice through the Schools Development Officer.

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

The school makes good provision for the needs of all its learners in those areas of the curriculum which are well monitored but these systems are not as evident in collective worship and religious education. There is good provision for interaction between adults and pupils through discussions in class, in the playground and during

the extensive extra curricular activities provided by staff and parents which promote the personal development of pupils. Success is also celebrated during Friday assemblies to which parents are invited as well as in picture format in displays inside and outside the school. Support for charities such as Guide Dogs for the Blind result in pupils awareness of caring for others and upholding the school's values. The planned provision of a School Council will provide the opportunity for children to take an active role in decision making. Pupils clearly appreciate the opportunities these strategies afford. All classrooms display clear guidance on expectations of standards of behaviour and children are expected to undertake daily tasks on a rota basis which helps to increase confidence and accept responsibility. There are two pupils from ethnic minority groups in the school who are well integrated and classroom displays reflect the desire of the school to embrace other faiths. It is the intention of the Headteacher to link with a town school thus enhance the children's experiences of multi-cultural life.

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

The impact of collective worship is satisfactory. All teaching staff lead worship following specific topics from a published scheme of work. There is sufficient evidence of monitoring and assessment. Pupils and staff take an active part in worship but there is scope for improving impact through reflection and the exploration of the Anglican tradition. During the long interregnum the Rural Dean has been actively involved in worship and takes services in the church approximately once a fortnight. The church is also used for Christmas celebrations and at other times during the year when all members of the local community are invited to attend. These are welcomed and wholeheartedly supported by parents, members of the congregation and the wider community.

How effective is the religious education?

Religious Education is satisfactory. All year groups receive the allocated time and themes are based on the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus. All staff have received some training in the delivery of RE but there is scope for further training to improve standards of teaching and learning. Older pupils have acquired a basic knowledge of other faiths and understanding diversity of cultural differences which they may experience, contributing to their moral, spiritual and cultural development. They were able to discuss some aspects of the Jewish faith. During observation, the youngest pupils were not able to connect the story they had heard with elements of Christianity. Summative assessments are made and annual reports contain comments on pupil progress in RE but there needs to be a more focussed approach to assessment, monitoring and evaluation. The current School Development Plan does not include areas for development in RE.

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

The leadership and management of the school is good. Much has been achieved since the appointment of the Headteacher although it is acknowledged there are still areas for growth and development which need to be addressed. The Christian purpose is clearly defined in the Mission Statement and in information available to parents and visitors. Governors work closely with staff and pupils and speak with clarity and understanding about the aims of the school and the development of the Christian dimension in school life. Parents welcome the inclusive nature of the school and concern for the welfare of all pupils. This is evident from discussions and evaluation of questionnaires. The Friends of Titchmarsh School hold joint ventures with the church, such as the summer fete, which maintains strong links with the local community.