

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Twineham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Church Lane
Twineham
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH17 5NR

Diocese: Chichester

LA: West Sussex

Dates of inspection: 3rd May 2006

Date of last inspection: 15 - 18 January 2001

School's Unique reference number: 126011

Headteacher: Vanessa Baber

Inspector's name and number: Richard Saunders 175

School context

Twineham Primary School is situated in the village of the same name to the west of the A23. Originally built in 1864, it has been extended to include three classrooms and a library area. Pupils come from a variety of socio-economic groups, including farming families, travelling from surrounding towns and villages. The school has a good local reputation for its care of pupils with special educational needs.

At the time of the inspection there was 1 full time teacher, 6 part time teachers and 8 part time teaching assistants.

Summary Judgement

Twineham is an effective and distinctive Church school. Its Christian ethos and the collaborative partnership of the staff and governors in designing policies which value the individual pupil is reflected in all aspects of school life. There are very good relationships throughout the school. The good opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development create very positive attitudes and behaviour from all the pupils. Collective worship is of a good standard. Pupils enjoy the variety of assemblies and services and are led to a greater understanding of the Anglican tradition. The leadership and management of the headteacher contributes very significantly to the success of the school as a Church school. The governors, staff and parents are committed to further developing the Christian character of the school.

Established strengths

- The very effective and distinctive character of the school which creates a caring, nurturing, Christian family ethos.
- The very good relationships and behaviour of the pupils, guided by the staff, which make a significant contribution to the school's effectiveness as a Church school.
- The positive leadership of the headteacher who is strongly supported by the governors, staff and parents.
- The importance that collective worship plays in the life of the school and in enhancing the pupils' spiritual and moral experiences.

Focus for development

- To progress the evaluation of its effectiveness and distinctiveness as a Church school to enhance the impact of the school's work on the pupils, as identified in the School Improvement Plan, by developing its use of the National Society's self-evaluation toolkit.
- To further develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural education by creating an overarching policy which integrates all curriculum subjects and increases the pupils opportunities and experiences.
- To develop the current recording of collective worship in order to create a consistent, systematic, written record to extend good practice and assist in monitoring and evaluation.

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

The school makes very good provision for meeting the needs of all its pupils. It is clear that from the Foundation Stage pupils are guided into making correct moral and social choices in the school and are gently introduced to church ritual. Relationships are very good throughout the school, emphasising its Christian values of tolerance, compassion, respect, "everyone has value", which permeate all aspects of school life. It creates a community which is a caring, nurturing Christian family. Staff provide good role models. Pupils' attitudes and behaviour are very positive and as a result they are happy and enjoy their time at Twineham. Pupils are encouraged to discuss their ideas and concerns in the school council, a valued forum.

Parents/carers view the school very positively for its care and consideration of the individual pupil. They speak of the good opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. These would be further enhanced by the school developing an overarching policy which integrates all the curriculum subjects. A link with Sierra Leone is being developed through the Diocesan Project to strengthen cultural opportunities. As a further initiative the school should consider establishing a relationship with an urban school to promote greater understanding of religious and ethnic diversity, to help prepare pupils more thoroughly for life in a multi-cultural society.

Grade 2

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

Worship occupies an important place in the life of the school. It is recognisably and consistently Christian. The Rector is actively involved in the school, leading worship fortnightly, ensuring that the school community becomes familiar with the Anglican tradition and supporting it in times of crisis. Acts of collective worship are well planned by the headteacher. Christian festivals, Bible stories, moral and social themes are identified in the three year planning cycle. All teaching staff lead worship and visitors from local free churches lead assemblies from time to time, emphasising to the pupils the diversity of faith. It would extend the existing good practice and assist future monitoring and evaluation if the recording procedures were further developed.

Worship in its variety of forms clearly enhances the pupils' spiritual and moral experiences. Pupils lead and actively participate in services held at St Peter's Church, Twineham, at Harvest, Christmas and at the end of each term. The act of worship observed during the inspection was good. Pupils demonstrated a positive attitude by their attentive behaviour and enthusiastic and tuneful singing, accompanied by recorders and the piano, emphasising the school's strong musical tradition.

Grade 2

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

The positive leadership and management of the school by the headteacher contributes very significantly to the success of Twineham as a Church school. The governors are developing their strategic role and work collaboratively with the staff to ensure that each child is valued as an individual. The foundation governors are becoming involved in monitoring, evaluating and sustaining the Christian ethos. The school is to be commended on its use of the National Society's self-evaluation toolkit in evaluating its effectiveness, clearly identifying its strengths and areas of focus for development in the School Improvement Plan. This will enhance the impact of the school's work on the pupils and its distinctiveness as a Church school in the future. Symbols play an important part in emphasising the school's Christian character, particularly the sculpture of hands holding a fish, symbolising St Peter.

There is a very strong link with St Peter's Church and others in the benefice. An

annual grant from the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's is used to purchase resources for religious education and worship. This commitment and the invitation to members of the congregation, together with parents/carers, to attend school services in the church shows the importance the school places on working with the church community for the benefit of the pupils. The school is to be commended on its outreach in supporting both national and local charities. The school values the help given by the local community, using their expertise to support the curriculum and worship very effectively.

Grade 2

SIAS report 3rd May 2006 Twineham CE Primary School Church Lane Twineham Haywards Heath West Sussex RH17 5NR