

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Westgate, St. Saviour's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Elm Grove
WESTGATE-ON-SEA
Kent
CT8 8LD

Diocese: Canterbury

LA: kent

Date of last inspection: 14th -15th March 2006

School's Unique reference number: 118695

Headteacher: Mr. Jarlath Madine

Inspector's name and number: Mr. David Vannerley NS No. 379

School context

Westgate, St. Saviour's Church of England Junior School serves its local community within the Thanet urban area, drawing its pupils from all sections of what is now an increasingly socially and mixed area. The proportion of children with special educational needs is higher than average. There were 365 children on roll some 90% of whom are of white British origin. The recent Ofsted Section 5 inspection found the school to be satisfactory and giving good value for money with a number of areas of strength.

Summary Judgement

Westgate, St. Saviour's Church of England Junior School is a satisfactory church school.

Established strengths

- The pastoral care of the children is soundly organised and sympathetically managed, with clear expectations placed on all members of the school community.
- Acts of Collective Worship are prepared with great care and imagination, set a clear moral tone and are seen as key to developing the school community.
- Christian values underlie the work and management of the school in a positive way.

Focus for development

- The school should build on existing good practice to make explicit its distinctive Christian character as part of its regular review of its policies and practices.
- The school should further develop its self-evaluation to encourage contributions from all stakeholders about the impact and effectiveness of worship and Christian education.
- The school should continue the process of seeking to fully embed its good practice across all aspects of the school's collective life.

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

GOOD

Learners feel valued in their school and speak very warmly of it, they say that they feel cared for, treated with justice and that there are appropriate ways for them to seek adult help. Worship and the curriculum are presented in a way that respects cultural difference whilst still being underpinned by the Christian principles promoted by the staff and Governors. Relationships within the school are confident and respectful and the Head sets a strong personal lead in his own faith commitment. The school is working on the development of a more integrated curriculum that will enable it to make explicit the relationship between its core values and what is taught and learnt; this should result in the pupils being better able to give expression to the religious basis of the school's life. RE in the school makes a sound contribution to this process with imaginative work having been seen and appropriate weight also being given to the world's great religious traditions. Continued further development of the use of religious art in amongst the lively and stimulating classroom environments will help to make more explicit the Christian character of the school.

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

SATISFACTORY

Acts of Collective Worship and regular prayer during the day have a secure place in

the school's life; children have experience of writing prayers for classroom use. Pupils spoke positively of the worship as a collective experience. The Acts of Worship that were observed were imaginatively prepared with strong use of image and clear themes. Pupils were encouraged to participate through quiet reflection and response to questions. The school has begun to discuss how some good practice from its worship in the parish church, three times a year, might be imported into school worship with a view to enhancing beneficial participation. Such developments, in partnership with the parish clergy, together with a move towards using the Diocesan framework for collective worship, should be supported by having a clear and regular process of record keeping and evaluation of worship of all kinds across the school. This would ensure that the new practices and so-operation which are emerging might be quickly and effectively embedded. Existing links with the parish, such as the regular presence of clergy in the school, should be built on and might be enhanced by deepening the existing relationships with other faith communities in the area.

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

SATISFACTORY

The Head and Governors provide sound leadership and, with the senior staff, are committed to seeking excellence for the school. The Mission Statement of the school has a clearly Christian perspective and promotes gospel values in an appropriate way; there should be a process in the regular of review of the schools policies and other documentation to ensure that these values are consistently and explicitly set forth. Further development of consultation processes with all stakeholders including learners and parents will enhance the process; this might be done through having more content in questionnaires relating to worship, moral and spiritual education, through the School Council and through circle time in classes. Both school and parish are seeking to build on their existing connections and this area should be further explored to see what each can bring to the other in partnership. They might consider together how some extra-curricular provision for Christian activities for the children might be sourced, perhaps in consultation with Diocesan Children's Ministry Adviser. The positive relationships between members of the school and the obvious pleasure that the children take in attending are a tribute to the work done by the leadership in the school to promote a properly caring and Christian environment.

SIAS report March 2006 Westgate, St. Saviour's Church of England Junior School Elm Grove WESTGATE-ON-SEA Kent CT8 8LD