

West Lulworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

West Lulworth

Wareham

Dorset

BH20 5SA

Diocese of Salisbury

Dorset LEA

SIAS inspection: 8 December 2005

Previous S23 inspection: 4,7 December 2000

URN: 113769

Headteacher: Mrs. Estelle Smith

SIAS Inspector NS 185: Mrs. Rosemary Davis

School Context

West Lulworth First School is situated towards the outskirts of the beautiful village of Lulworth, within walking distance of the famous Cove and Jurassic Coastline. Pupils attend from the village, outlying areas and the Lulworth Gunnery School, the latter accounting for 60% but with most of these only staying for two years. The 45 pupils on role are grouped into three mixed age classes. The school suffers from a lack of a hall.

On September 1, 2005 the school federated with Winfrith CE VA School. The Headteacher and governing body manage both schools.

Summary Judgement

West Lulworth is a good Church of England school with many strengths and is distinctive and effective in its practice. At its core is its Christian ethos which permeates school life.

Established strengths

- Distinctive Christian ethos with very good pastoral care and a nurturing ethos
- The value placed upon every individual in the school community
- Strong and productive relationships with the Church and local community
- Confident, polite and well-motivated pupils.

Focus for development

- Develop a system for recording and evaluating collective worship
- Improve logo to symbolise Anglican foundation
- Develop wider links with the Diocese, the national and international Anglican community

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

The school's distinctive Christian character is good and meets the needs of all learners. The school has a very good working atmosphere and relationships based on Christian values of care and concern for others. This has a positive impact on pupils who feel secure and valued. The opportunities for SMSC development are very good. The expectations of good behaviour encourage pupils to be kind and considerate. They are happy, confident and communicative. The school council provides pupils with good opportunities to raise and resolve issues and take responsibility. Parents see the school's Christian ethos as a strength of the school.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good. It forms a central role in the life of the school. It is well planned and imaginatively presented with the Vicar playing a strong role. All staff and members, including those of differing Christian denominations in the area, lead worship. Pupils enjoy worship and their attitudes are good. They are familiar with prayers including the Lord's Prayer and demonstrate a reflective attitude. The lack of physical space for worship somewhat restricts variety of presentation, active involvement and parents' visits which, in turn, impacts on quality and spontaneity but good use is made of the local church.

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

The leadership and management of this Church school are good and effective. The headteacher provides a very strong and effective leadership ensuring the distinctive Christian character of the school is maintained and developed. The very clear vision is evident and reinforces the school's commitment to the Church foundation. High expectations are based on Christian values. The quality of relationships between staff and pupils is seen as a cornerstone of all the school's work. There is an excellent understanding of the local community and the school has a strong partnership with the local church, clergy and the congregation. Teachers and support staff feel valued as members of the staff team. There are excellent communications between the school, parents and the local church.

SIAS DECEMBER 2005 West Lulworth CE VC Primary School, Dorset, BH20 5SA