

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Wilby Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Church Lane

Wilby,
Wellingborough,
Northamptonshire
NN8 2UG

Diocese: Peterborough

LEA: Northamptonshire

Date of inspection: 24 April 2006

Dates of last inspection: 14, 15 November 1999

School's Unique reference number: 122033

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Avril Wise

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number: Keith Brammer 334

School context

Wilby School is a smaller than average primary school. Approximately one in five pupils are from Wilby village whilst many of the remainder are from an area of Wellingborough in which there is considerable social deprivation. Most pupils are from white British backgrounds. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties is above the national average. Approximately 84% are from Christian households.

Summary Judgement

Wilby School is a good Church school with some outstanding features. The beliefs, teachings and values of the Anglican Church fully permeate all aspects of its work and it successfully develops the special talents of each pupil in a caring and supportive Christian atmosphere. The school has high expectations of all staff and pupils and is exceptionally well led.

Established strengths

- * High quality daily acts of worship fully involve all pupils and promote the school's Christian ethos superbly
- * Outstanding leadership and management are driving the school forward
- * Christian principles are at the heart of every aspect of school life and ensure a happy, secure and orderly learning environment.

Focus for development

- * Enhance pupils' learning in Religious Education lessons by the greater use of information and communication technology (ICT)
- * Introduce a wider range of tasks which will enable all able pupils to achieve well

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

The school meets the needs of all learners very well. The strong Christian ethos is immediately evident on entering the building and is seen in all aspect of school life, from displays and documentation through to pupils' behaviour and attitudes. There is a welcoming, happy, secure, family-like atmosphere where pupils know that their beliefs are respected and that they themselves are special and valued. Pupils demonstrate that they understand the School's commitment to recognising their uniqueness and development as individuals to their full potential, when they say the School Prayer: " We know that we are all unique and have special individual talents. Help us Lord to show these gifts." Christian values, such as tolerance, respect and mutual support are obvious everywhere, particularly in the high quality relationships between pupils and adults, and also between pupils. The way in which older boys and girls readily take

responsibility for helping and guiding the younger ones is most impressive. Behaviour and attitudes are very good because school rules stress positive behaviour; and pupils' achievement is regularly rewarded, in weekly Celebration Assemblies. Pupils' views are frequently sought and they feel that they are listened to and receive good, sensitive guidance and support. Teachers know all of their pupils well; and parents show a high level of satisfaction with the care and provision for their children. Pupils respond well to a good range of extra-curricular activities.

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

The quality of Worship is outstanding. Daily Acts of Worship are extremely well planned and are central to school life. One, led by the headteacher, was observed. Pupils enter the hall quietly and respectfully with music, artwork and Christian symbols contributing to an atmosphere which is immediately conducive to reverence and reflection. They participate fully, sing joyfully and pray sincerely. It is a strong corporate occasion which contributes superbly to their spiritual, social, moral and cultural development. Pupils enjoy assemblies and say that they learn "useful things", such as "how to behave towards other people" and "the teachings of Jesus," from them. Themes include key Christian festivals, Easter and harvest for example, and the school responds readily to topical and significant events which may arise, such as the tsunami. The Vicar makes a valuable contribution to Worship by accompanying hymn practices and taking the Thursday service, to which parents are invited, in the church. Members of St Mary's congregation and other visitors and groups also take assemblies so that pupils are well aware of different styles and approaches to Christianity.

How effective is the religious education?

Religious education is good. Pupils achieve well overall, and better than in the core subjects, because of good teaching and their own enthusiasm and interest. They listen carefully and discuss issues and concepts arising from lessons eagerly and well. The accuracy and structure of their written responses are only average. Stories and accounts are not always fully developed because pupils do not plan or draft carefully enough. Assessment strategies are robust and individual progress is well tracked. However, lower ability pupils, especially in Key Stage 2, sometimes find that tasks set for them are too difficult. Art, music and drama enliven the subject well, but the use of ICT to enhance learning is still being developed. All pupils are aware of the Bible's significance and the importance of prayer. Older pupils have a good knowledge of other world faiths and younger ones can name them. Pupils' wider experience is developed appropriately through visits to places of worship, such as a synagogue, a mosque and a Hindu temple; and also by talks from visiting speakers and links with a school in Nepal.

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 are outstanding. The excellent leadership and high expectations of the headteacher have a very positive impact on all aspects of school life. Since the previous inspection, the quality of RE teaching and standards of pupils' attainment and behaviour have risen, assessment is more thorough, rigorous monitoring systems are in place and the school plans extremely well for the future. Wilby is truly a forward-looking, self-evaluating and reflective church school with a clear vision. This is well driven and supported by a team of governors thoroughly involved in evaluating the school's work and which shows impressive professionalism, enthusiasm and commitment. There are already good links with St Mary's Church and the Vicar has provided strong pastoral help for pupils and adults in times of need. However, such is the school's vision of its place and responsibility in the community that it is looking at promoting and extending these links even further.