

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

William Law Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Twelvetree Avenue,
Peterborough.
PE4 5DT

Diocese: Peterborough

LA: Peterborough

Dates of inspection: 2nd February 2006

Date of last inspection: October 1999.

School's Unique reference number: 110858

Headteacher: Mr. Philip Williams.

Inspector's name and number: Mr. John Riches (NS No.158) assisted by Mr Bob Miller

School context

Priest and writer William law (1686 – 1761), was a fellow of Emmanuel College Cambridge. He felt unable to take an allegiance oath to new king George I and retired to Kings Cliffe. William Law School and Emmanuel Church were named in his honour. They share new buildings in a largely private development at Werrington, Peterborough. The parents of the 579 pupils on roll are mostly supportive of the school. Free school meals take-up is 2.07%. Most children have English as their first language. It is a very popular school. Parents believe that standards are good. The school is striving to encourage parents to have greater academic aspirations for their children. Ofsted describes the William Law Out of School Club, based in on-site mobiles, as providing outstanding standards of care.

Established strengths

- A strong Christian ethos guides the values and aspirations of pupils and staff.
- Good leadership from Governors, Headteacher and senior staff.
- Outstanding school worship that includes support from the Vicar, Associate Vicar and Parish.

Focus for development

- Maintain the high standards already being set in worship, RE and general ethos.
- Create opportunities for co-ordinators to monitor the delivery of Religious Education lessons throughout the school.
- Arrange further training so that all staff have opportunities to learn more about world faiths.

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

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is good at meeting the needs of all learners.

The school has strong Christian values and aspirations for its community. Governors, staff, pupils and parents appreciate the very strong Christian ethos of the school. Clergy from Werrington Parish act as very effective chaplains. Thoughtfully constructed policies have resulted in good inter personal relationships. Children are comfortable, confident and safe in a secure environment. Achievements are celebrated and good work and behaviour rewarded. Children from all backgrounds are welcomed. Social skills are emphasised. The School Council is effective. Good classroom displays enhance spiritual development: e.g. "Life as a Jew," and "Africa". Throughout the site there is a total lack of litter or graffiti. Classrooms, corridors, cloakrooms and toilets are pristine – a tribute to all especially a very effective care taking team. International links are effective and include collaboration with Uniqueen School in Ghana established through the good offices of Thorney Abbey. A special dimension has been added by the visit of Ukrainian children from a school in Veynntisia.

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

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.

Worship is a crucial part of the life of this school. Pupils benefit from the thought and planning that has gone into its preparation. All pupils attend daily acts of worship - some take place in Emmanuel Church that also serves as the school hall. The planning of worship is excellent. Annual themes established by the worship co-ordinator (The Headteacher) relating to the church calendar, gospels and seasons,

ensures that clear guidance is given to teachers leading worship. All staff contribute and attend daily worship. Excellent use of technology is made to reinforce learning. The involvement of many pupils as readers, musicians, dancers and leaders of intercessions aids their appreciation and enjoyment of worship. Year six pupils attend the Eucharist at St John's church twice each year. Special services are held regularly at major festivals to which parents and grandparents are invited. Parish clergy make regular, enthusiastic contributions to worship and see the school as a tremendous opportunity for mission. Many school staff are involved with local churches. Worship meets statutory requirements.

How effective is the religious education?

The teaching of Religious Education is good. Two enthusiastic part time teachers co-ordinate RE. The Peterborough Agreed Syllabus is used. The lessons observed were well planned and interesting. Teachers are confident and have good subject knowledge. Parish clergy and representatives of other faiths assist RE lessons. St John's Church is used as a teaching resource. Good quality digital photographs of that church's interior are used to enhance RE lessons. In one lesson a child talked about her own faith and asked classmates to answer a short quiz. To rectify an acknowledged weakness, one co-ordinator is to attend a course devoted to world faiths. Pupils undertake well-planned interesting assignments. These receive encouraging teacher comments as part of the school's marking policy. The challenge set for children by the Vicar entitled, "*What would you do if you were God for a day?*" has provoked much interest and excellent displays. Governors have identified the need for more formal monitoring of RE lessons. Opportunities need to be created to enable the co-ordinators to undertake this. Over £3,000 has been well spent during the past four years to purchase RE resources. An internal Internet provides a year map for teachers and provides lesson-planning information including details of the substantial resources available such as boxes of artefacts, books and visual materials to support studies of world faiths. The teaching of Religious Education meets statutory requirements.

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

The leadership and management of William Law as a church school are good. The Governors, Headteacher, Management Team and local clergy very successfully promote William Law as a Christian school. The prospectus, plus well-written policy documents, are readily available on the school's Internet to all the school community. Governors are enthusiastic and effective. The Headteacher has a personal vision of William Law as a school that serves its local community but has a strong Christian ethos. Parents and the community value this. Newly appointed staff, particularly newly qualified teachers, receive a comprehensive induction programme. All staff contracts are based on National Society models. The school benefits from regular submissions to local newspapers, radio and TV stations. The large cross outside the entrance to Emmanuel Church is one of many Christian symbols throughout the joint premises. An excellent web site emphasises the school's Christian foundation and gives news and policies. The "*William Law Association*," - a PTA - is very active and is thanked for its enthusiasm and effectiveness. There are good links with the adjoining Ken Simpson Secondary and music links with King's School. All issues raised in the 1999 Denomination Inspection have been addressed successfully. Governors, Headteacher, staff, clergy, parents and the community have created a school of which to be proud.

SIAS report February 2006 William Law Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Twelvetree Avenue, Peterborough. PE4 5DT.