

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Adderley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Adderley
Market Drayton
Shropshire
TF9 3 TF

Diocese Lichfield

LEA Shropshire

Dates of inspection 14th March 2008

Date of last inspection 29th March 2004

School's Unique reference number 123457

Name of Headteacher Miss Tessa Wilkins

Inspector's name and National Society inspector's number Marion Hillaby 73

School context

The school is a small, rural, two class primary school with a part time nursery, whose pupils are mainly drawn from the surrounding area and also from the nearby market town, through parental preference. The majority of current pupils are all white British. Under the Local Authority's planned re-structuring, the school was recently under threat of closure and although this threat has now been lifted it has caused grave concern to the school and local community.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Adderley as a Church of England school are good

Adderley C.E. Primary School is a good Church school with a number of outstanding features. The strong Christian commitment of the headteacher, supported by staff, vicar and foundation governor, means that the school's distinctive Christian character is making a strong impact on all aspects of school life.

Established strengths

- The strong Christian leadership of the school by the headteacher, working with a committed staff.
- The outstanding pastoral support given to the school by the vicar and local Church community.
- The explicit way in which the Christian values of love, caring and forgiveness are recognised as underpinning the life of the school.
- The ways in which the school environment is used to support its Church school status and to promote the spiritual development of the learners.
- The opportunities provided to learners to actively contribute to Acts of Worship.

Focus for development

- Develop class worship, exploring the possibility of occasionally holding this in Church
- Implement the planned evaluation of Acts of Worship and monitoring by a foundation governor.
- Enable the headteacher to participate in the Diocesan schools' network of support.

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

The school provides an outstanding level of care and support for all its pupils, resulting in “excellent personal development and good achievement” (OFSTED 2008). The realisation of the school’s vision of “Family, Faith and Focus” was witnessed through reference to learners being responsible and caring members of the Adderley Church School family and the explicit way in which faith was discussed. All learners feel valued and secure, as evidenced by the confident and enthusiastic way in which the younger children performed a play about Noah and his family to the older children and staff. The school environment clearly bears witness to the church school status, particularly illustrated by the recent creation of a worship room and the large cross on the outside of the building, made by a parent. There are excellent opportunities for the spiritual development of the learners, for example, through their involvement in creating a cross of hands, each with a prayer written on it and a banner illustrating a Biblical quotation of praise. The behaviour of learners is excellent and relationships throughout the school are clearly based on a sense of caring for each other and pride in their school. The strong impact of the school council on the life of the school is seen through the ways in which they lead the organising of fundraising for local, national and international charities; such as the raising of money to provide mosquito nets for people in Sudan.

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

Worship is seen as central to the life of the school, demonstrated by the creation of a worship room so that, in a very small school building, there is a special place set aside for worship. The headteacher, as worship co-ordinator, provides detailed planning with appropriate resources identified but there are no records of either staff evaluations of worship or monitoring by foundation governors. Whole school Acts of Worship are led by the headteacher, other teaching staff and the vicar, whose chosen themes run parallel to those followed by the staff. Learners are given regular opportunities to take part in readings, dramatisations, leading prayers and accompanying the singing on musical instruments. A clear distinction is made between worship and assembly and the use of candles as a focus during time for reflection adds to the calm and reverent mood of the worship. Biblical stories are linked to moral issues, often through the posing of a question for learners to reflect on in relation to their own lives and conduct. The introduction of class or Church based Acts of Worship is being considered by the headteacher in order to further strengthen parental involvement. Learners lead services in Church to mark festivals in the Church’s year and they are encouraged to take part in Sunday services on special occasions. The older learners have learned about the Eucharist through discussion and observing a service in Church so that they are enabled to relate well to the life of the Church.

The leadership and management of the school as a church school is good.

The headteacher’s Christian commitment shines through her leadership and she is very well supported by the staff, local vicar, (who clearly articulated his vision that the school should represent “the Christian vision acted out”) and the Foundation Governor. In the headteacher’s report to Governors there is now a “Faith in Adderley” section so that they are all aware of the themes for Acts of Worship and other Christian activities within school. The mission statement is at the top of all staff job descriptions and there is a clear sense that they are united in supporting the school in realising its vision. The school has recently gone through a very unsettling period, when it was threatened with closure because of its small size. However this difficult experience has led to even stronger support from parents and local community, well illustrated by the vicar’s description of the local community as a three legged stool – the Church, the school and the village – which is spoiled if one leg is taken away. The school has benefited from the support of Diocesan advisors and the older learners will be attending Open Door in the Cathedral later in the year. The headteacher is aware that she would benefit from participation in the Diocesan support network that

is available to her. The school shows how it values the involvement of parents through questionnaires about its impact as a Church school on their children and also about specific issues, such as the school badge. Responses confirmed the high degree of parental satisfaction with the school's Christian character.

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