

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Ampfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Knapp Lane
Ampfield
Romsey
Hampshire
SO51 9BT

Diocese: Winchester

Local authority: Hampshire

Dates of inspection: December 5th 2007

Date of last inspection: School's unique reference number: 116268

Headteacher: Mrs Jayne Stratton

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Val Palmer 546

School context

Ampfield Church of England Primary is much smaller than most primary school. The pupils come from a variety of backgrounds and many of them join the school in Years 3 to 6. The school is emerging from a turbulent period following a decline in numbers (now reversed), uncertainty over its future and considerable staff turnover. There are 46 pupils on roll taught in 4 classes by classteachers all appointed within the last two years. The present headteacher was asked by the local authority to be acting headteacher from January 2007 and was appointed as substantive headteacher in March.

Previous Inspection: progress since the last Inspection

The school has progressed significantly since the last Inspection and addressed all the issues raised at the time. The school has improved the learning environment and the school documentation now reflects the rich spiritual opportunities provided. The links with the local community have been developed and the newly appointed Church of England incumbent will enable the school to broaden further the links with the local church.

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

Ampfield is a good Church of England Primary school and all involved are clear in its ambition "to provide a challenging and stimulating environment for learning within a caring Christian community" The school has been through a difficult time and is now in the process of significant improvement under the exceptional and enthusiastic new headteacher. The welcome is warm and the school provides a stimulating and secure environment where all learners and staff can grow and develop in a friendly, happy and creative environment.

Established strengths

- Relationships between learners and adults that are respectful and warm.
- The positive and productive way in which the headteacher and governors have managed the school successfully through a time of significant change.
- The emphasis placed on developing and valuing each child as an individual to enable the establishment of personalised learning programmes.
- Teachers make highly effective use of the 'Faith tables' in each class for worship

Focus for development

The school through its own clear self evaluation has identified the areas for development including:

- Establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system for collective worship.
- Development of the newly-formed close links with the new vicar and church to gain further insight into the school's Anglican heritage.
- Ensuring a planned new prospectus truly reflects the centrality of worship in the life of the school

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

The new headteacher supported by staff and governors has established a very positive climate of achievement. The educational provision for pupils has been given very careful consideration and this is having a powerfully positive effect on their achievement which is encouraged, acknowledged and celebrated. Pupils are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas in a caring and supportive environment and said when questioned that the school is a safe place in which they feel happy. Learners feel secure and able to share their feelings; several children explained how they were moved to tears by a recent Remembrance Day service in school. One described the school as "happy place to work in" and another "we are like a family, everyone knows and likes each other and we are all friends". The high level of care shown towards the pupils leads them to behave in a kind and considerate way towards each other. Learners are able to relate sensitively to the needs of others and recognise that they are supported by all the staff in school. Conflicts are dealt with speedily, compassionately and fairly in a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation as one learner identified "things always get sorted". The accommodation and resources have been dramatically improved and have an outstanding effect on the quality of spiritual reflection and prayer. There are good displays of children's work throughout the school and Christian signs and symbols support the school's Christian distinctiveness.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship is an important component in the everyday life of the school and valued by learners. The collective worship policy outlines the key features of worship at the school and reflects its distinctive character and purpose. There is a developing sense of oneness and reverence which governors commented on following the Remembrance Day service. Parents are encouraged to attend worship at any school based services and at St Mark's church. The consistent pattern of worship is being developed further to link with the whole school themes for RE, the school's trust deeds and the Church of England calendar. The staff regularly attend school worship and this enhances the family ethos of the school. The act of worship observed was of a high quality and impacted positively on the children. The pupils sang well and all joined in with the actions enthusiastically and responded respectfully to the Christian greetings. A number of children were involved in preparing the room for worship, leading prayers and lighting the candles.

Pupils are aware of the distinctive nature of worship and enter and exit the hall in a quiet and respectful way. In each class there is a place for quiet reflection and prayer and at the initiation of the school council there is now a quiet area in the playground.

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

The headteacher has a strategy for making the school vision a reality and is supported in this by the staff and governors. There is clear and honest self evaluation as the basis for improvement planning and all are fully committed both to the academic education of the pupils and their spiritual, cultural and personal development. The school is generating a momentum of energy and enthusiasm that will enable it to raise the educational performance of every pupil. There is a strong recognition from all stakeholders of the very positive and empowering impact of the new headteacher. All staff receive excellent support and rigorous

challenge and there are effective and inclusive recruitment and induction procedures to explain and explore the schools Christian character.

SIAS report October 2007 Ampfield Church of England (Controlled) Primary School,
Ampfield, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 9BT