

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Ashlands Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

North Street,
Crewkerne
TA18 7AL

Diocese: Bath and Wells

Local authority: Somerset

Dates of inspection: 12th September 2006

Date of last inspection: 4 – 8 October 1999

School's unique reference number: 123749

Headteacher: Mrs Carol Wills

Inspector's name and number: Jacqueline Waters-Dewhurst 80

School context

Ashlands is a small Church of England First school located in a social housing area but serving a much wider and diverse community including a large proportion of privately owned property. The head teacher has been in post for one year and the deputy headteacher for a little over a term. Considerable refurbishment and redecoration has taken place to improve the working environment for the pupils and staff.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Ashlands as a Church of England school are satisfactory

Ashlands Church of England First School is a satisfactory Church of England School with many good elements. Strong leadership has enabled much progress in the last year and this has had a positive impact on pupils and staff and been appreciated by parents. There is now a real sense of pride in the school from all members of the school community and beyond. Recent changes now need to be sustained and embedded.

Established strengths

- Relationships in the school are positive with adults and children feeling valued and supported
- The school meets the needs of diverse learners with projects such as the garden project and Forest School
- The head has a clear vision which is supported by the senior management team and the governors
- Parents show a commitment to the school

Focus for development

- The school's Christian foundation and values need to be made explicit in the curriculum, the policies and the schools aims and values
- More time needs to be given to the RE subject leader to ensure sufficient coverage of RE and to allow for monitoring and evaluating
- Links between Church and school need to be further developed with the support of Diocesan advisors and resources

The school meets the needs of all its learners in a satisfactory way as a Church of England School and has many good elements.

Initiatives such as The Garden Project and the Forest School have enabled all pupils to become involved in their education and have resulted in some previously disengaged pupils talking at home enthusiastically about curriculum activities. These projects have raised self esteem and given a sense of responsibility and ownership to the pupils as well as to parents who are actively supporting the initiative. Through the wider curriculum provided by the school pupils are now more aware of the world around them and are continuing discussions when back at home. Children are supportive and considerate towards those who have

difficulties or differences hence the deputy head's willingness to return to work with a leg in plaster. The school now needs to ensure that the Christian values that are implicit throughout the school are made more explicit and also become embedded in its policies and procedures

Collective Worship makes a satisfactory impact on the life of the school community.

The Collective Worship seen served as an introduction to the current reflection area. These areas are used independently by pupils who are confident about their use and purpose. Children see prayer as an important part of the school and those who do not chose to pray are respectful of those who do. Parents are, on occasions, invited to attend collective worship and there are plans to increase the frequency of this. The church is used for some services and again there are plans to increase this. The school now needs to record, monitor and evaluate collective worship and ascertain the impact it has through the involvement of pupils and others from the wider school community.

The leadership and management of the school as a church school are satisfactory with good elements.

The head has a strong vision for the school which is shared by the senior management team and the governors. A strong team has emerged which has led to rapid progress in all areas of the school. There is a good knowledge of key issues facing the school and their self evaluation is sound. The head has ensured that every member of the school community feels valued and has encouraged all staff to develop professionally through courses, training and inset. Parents have been able to progress from helping in class to gaining qualifications. The school acknowledges that its documentation does not adequately reflect its present stage of development but it was felt to be necessary to make the changes and then write policies to reflect the new embedded practice. The school is now developing a more overt attitude to its Christian foundation and this would be further helped by ensuring that each classroom made reference to this through the use of display, prayers and symbols. Views need to be sought from all members of the school community as to the schools Christian distinctiveness and how to advance this further