

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Boddington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Church Road  
Upper Boddington  
Daventry  
Northants  
NN11 6DL

<b>Diocese:</b>	<b>Peterborough</b>
Local authority:	Northamptonshire
Dates of inspection:	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2007
Date of last inspection:	February 2002
School's unique reference number:	121960
Headteacher:	Miss J. Blacker
Inspector's name and number:	Mr R.Y.McNulty 188

#### **School context**

This is a small primary school. The majority of the children come from the catchment area others from neighbouring villages. The proportion of children with learning difficulties is below the national average. All of the children are from white backgrounds. The head teacher has been in post since September 2005.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Boddington CE VC Primary school as a Church of England school are good.**

The distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England school are evident in its focus on worship and commitment to promoting pupils' spiritual development. Good links exist between the school and the local parish church, also the community.

#### **Established strengths**

Relationships between all members of the school community are very good and promote the pupils' social and moral development.

The School has very positive and supportive links with the church and community.

The head teacher, chair of governors, other governors and staff clearly promote the distinctive Christian character of the school, although formal monitoring and evaluating by the governors needs to be developed.

#### **Focus for development**

The governors should develop a more formal monitoring and evaluating procedure for the Christian dimension of the school's life.

To develop links with other schools which have a multi ethnic mix to increase the children's awareness of other cultures.

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

The school makes excellent provision to meet the needs of all its learners through its strong Christian ethos. The head, governors and parents all stress that Christian values underpin all that takes place in the school. The moral, social and cultural education is good. Good and caring provision is made for pupils with special needs who perform particularly well. The majority of learners do well and fulfil their potential. Teaching and non-teaching staff feel involved and appreciated. There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities which are much appreciated by pupils. This enriches the curriculum and also demonstrates to children the value that is placed on each individual in the school community.

Relationships between staff and pupils are very effective and children feel safe, secure and happy. The pupils enjoy their school and feel that where an issue does arise it is handled

effectively and seriously yet with gentleness and love. Older pupils take on responsibility for looking after and helping the younger pupils.

Governors are actively involved in visiting the school, particularly the chair and the vice-chair who is also the Rector. The head describes them as critical friends.

Parents views have been sought by means of questionnaires, those to whom I spoke were pleased with the caring attitude of the head and staff, who were very approachable.

In the entrance of the school there is a cross and further information celebrating the opening of the school hall by the Bishop of Peterborough, this shows the link with the Diocese and wider church

Pupils' RE work is in evidence in classrooms in wall displays. Pupils enjoy the subject and learn from it. Through its RE teaching the school ensures that the children learn about different religions and cultures as well as Christianity. Children spoke enthusiastically about a recent project on India.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**

Worship occupies an important place in school life. The collective worship policy has been planned by the head teacher and governors. It is reviewed every three years. Themes are planned on a yearly basis by the staff. Each assembly is recorded by sub theme and biblical reference in a worship diary. This is used to assist future planning. The Rector, who takes collective worship weekly, discusses progress with the head as part of the ongoing monitoring of collective worship.

The excellent singing of the children enhances worship; this is encouraged by regular hymn practices. There is good participation by pupils in worship including drama and reading, time is given for quiet reflection.

The collective worship observed, which took place in the hall; included talk, visual aids, singing, reflection, the use of a candle and a cross as a focus and prayer. The children responded with enthusiasm. Owing to problems with flooding parents cannot be invited into the hall at the moment, Previously they attended and valued opportunities to share in worship. Many join the children in services held in the church.

Acts of worship are taken by members of staff, the Rector and sometimes other leaders from the church. Children stated that they enjoyed and learnt from assemblies. Services are held in church at Christmas and other festivals.

The prayers in these services are understood and appreciated by the pupils. Prayer is a natural part of the life of the school. The children spoke naturally about their involvement in prayers both formally and informally. The Lord's Prayer is used and its meaning is explained to the children, in discussion they showed their understanding. Worship is recognisably Christian. The Rector helps the school to ensure that the Anglican tradition is reflected in worship through the use of responses, prayer and the celebration of festivals of the church year.

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

The head teacher, works hard to move the school forward. Her leadership contributes significantly to the success of the school. Her clear vision for the school is based on sound Christian principles which are clearly expressed in the mission statement. This vision is taken forward by all of the staff working together. As a result the staff, children and parents feel valued and secure. The Rector helps to encourage this vision. She is well known in the school because of her regular visits. In this the other governors ably support her and are prepared to question and challenge the head teacher. The Governing body has no formal procedure for monitoring the school as a church school. Governors have only recently embarked upon accessing Diocesan support. Parents and pupils speak positively of the Christian ethos of the school grounded in love and concern for each other. New parents are left in no doubt that this is a Christian school through public documents such as the school brochure.