

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Cannington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Brook St.,
Cannington,
Bridgwater,
TA5 2HP

Diocese: Bath and Wells

Local authority: Somerset

Dates of inspection: 22nd April 2008

Date of last inspection: November 2003

School's unique reference number: 123786

Headteacher: Mrs Jan Hossent

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Janet Bond 247

School context

Cannington Church of England Primary School has 154 children educated in six classes and is situated in the village where the majority of children live. Some children come from the nearby town of Bridgwater. Almost all children are from white British backgrounds with English as their first language. The old Victorian building has been effectively extended to accommodate the children and the contemporary curriculum.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Cannington School as a Church school is outstanding

This is a school where children demonstrate the Christian values of care, love and compassion. They are happy and enthusiastic about learning. The school and the Church work together to provide a practising Christian community.

Established strengths

- Children understand, articulate and live out the school's mission statement 'We care, We share, We learn'
- Children's outstanding relationships and behaviour are based on Christian moral values
- Both church and school benefit from the excellent links between them

Focus for development

- Enable children to be more fully involved in the monitoring and evaluating process for Collective Worship
- Staff and governors to structure their monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship

The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding in the way it meets the needs of all learners

Children practise care and share well because the Christian character of the school very effectively promotes these Christian values. As a result, children are happy, proud of their achievements and very supportive of each other. Relationships and behaviour are outstanding as is children's personal development. Very effective religious education lessons support these attitudes and link well to collective worship. The well organised and active school council and peer mediators have been effective in contributing to aspects of school and in ensuring happy playtimes. As one child said, "I'm everybody's friend". In lessons children are confident to participate and are articulate in discussions. They respect the views of others, and as another child said in a reassuring way, "We are all good at something".

Children are very proud of their school and understand its guiding Christian principles. One child who had recently transferred to the school carefully explained the school mission statement and what it meant in practice. Children achieve very well at the school and know their academic and personal successes are celebrated by all. They know this is an inclusive school where all are valued and supported. As one parent wrote, "We are lucky to be at a school where it feels like an extended family". The spiritual, moral and social development of children is enhanced by the rich and varied curriculum and school clubs, and by the good use made of the local environment. Healthy living and keeping safe are well promoted. Prior to one field trip children carried out their own risk assessment and determined their own procedures for the day. Links with the local Church are outstanding and as a result many children attend and participate in family worship.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship is central to school life and informs and guides all aspects of the school community. The excellent behaviour and attitudes of the children in school demonstrate the Christian values that are encouraged and reflected upon in collective worship. Children are enthusiastic about collective worship and look forward to this special time. They participate through drama, readings and prayers and the appropriate use of symbols helps their focus and concentration. Their singing of hymns is joyful and this helps create a spiritual atmosphere. Children show a good understanding of major festivals which are celebrated and to which school productions are linked, for example "Jerusalem Joy" and "Peace Child". Children are aware of different styles and approaches to Christianity through a wide range of visitors leading and participating in collective worship. The local rector is a regular visitor who leads collective worship, and at special times a Eucharist in church attended by the school. Many children prepare for, and participate in, the monthly Sunday family service in the church. This is a direct result of their experiences in collective worship and the school's outstanding links with the local church. A board in church displaying children's work, and their church involvement displayed in school, are evidence of these links and the value placed on children's work. Collective worship is well planned and linked well to other curriculum areas, particularly religious education. Although collective worship is informally monitored by staff and governors, the views of the children have not been sought.

The leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding

The clear Christian vision of the Headteacher, shared by staff and the local church, has ensured the Christian foundation of the school is both implicit and explicit across all aspects of school and church community life. This is clearly visible in the caring atmosphere and outstanding relationships in school, with families and the parish church. The headteacher and governors have established an environment where the school mission statement, "We care, We share, We learn" is understood and practised by all. Governors often write letters of thanks to staff who have made a particular contribution, and parents frequently write to show their appreciation. Governors know the school well and take an active part in school and church life. The school and church demonstrate mutual support and understanding which impacts very positively on all. The Headteacher, who is also the RE coordinator, ensures the subject is well led and managed, and that monitoring is developing. Effective links are made to collective worship and other curriculum areas. Senior management and governors have effective strategies for identifying school strengths and areas for development. Parents are active in school and there are very good links within the local area. This is a happy church school of which all are proud and keen to give their best.