

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Canon Pyon Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Canon Pyon
Hereford,
HR4 8PF

Diocese: Hereford

Local Authority: Herefordshire

Date of inspection: 17th January 2007

Date of last inspection: 9th & 10th July 2001

School's Unique reference number : 116790

Head Teacher: Mrs Delyth Francis

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Sandie Johnson 229

School context

Canon Pyon School has 89 pupils on roll who come from the immediate area and a scattered rural community. Classes comprise wide age and ability ranges. Some pupils come from a local army camp leading to mobility within the small cohorts resulting in unpredictable patterns of academic performance. The Head Teacher has been in post for one term. The teaching team is experienced and stable. The Parish Church is a considerable distance from the school accessible on foot only along a dangerous road with no footpath. The Parish Council is keen to support the provision of a footpath from school to the church.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Canon Pyon Primary School as a Church of England school are good.

This is a well-regarded school with a good reputation for support and care for pupils' personal development and well-being. The school provides a happy, safe, caring learning community based on shared Christian aims and values enabling pupils to flourish as individuals. It is well led in an enthusiastic, realistic, collegiate style by a Head Teacher with vision and commitment. The school's Self Evaluation is sound.

Established strengths

- The caring, approachable staff who create a school community where everyone feels valued and secure.
- The clear Christian ethos and aims of the school revealed in the quality of relationships and concern for others.
- The sustained, supportive links with the local church.

Focus for development

- To explore further the means by which Religious Education can contribute to the spiritual and moral development of all learners.
- Governors and Leadership, in collaboration with all staff, to consider measures to put in place effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of the impact of Collective Worship; identifying this clearly in the School Development Plan.
- School based INSET to define and promote spiritual development across the curriculum.

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

The prospectus and mission statement reflect the school's commitment to Christian values and philosophy. The school is effective in developing self esteem and confidence whilst nurturing respect and care for others. Parents and governors speak repeatedly of the caring relationships between members of the school community. ... "May I take this opportunity to thank you immensely for welcoming Imogen so warmly into your school. She has felt so happy and secure....." (parent's letter 9.1.07). The School Council introduces pupils to collective responsibility. Learners feel that they are listened to and that their views are taken seriously. Pupils are well behaved, have a good understanding of right and wrong and the value of an apology. Staff speak of an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual consideration. Parents appreciate that their children are taught where Christian values are consistently reinforced by staff members. Prayers are said at appropriate times during the school day. Pupils' awareness of the wider world is demonstrated through charitable projects, both local and with overseas links. Fair Trade goods are used in school. Healthy eating is encouraged with various projects during the year. "Healthy School" status was achieved in June 2006. Opportunities exist to learn from the environment and to encourage spiritual development. Symbols and displays clearly communicate the Christian foundation of the school.

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is satisfactory with good elements.

School and parish church work together to ensure that Collective Worship plays a key part in the pupils' daily life. Parents speak warmly of the "joining together of school and church....harmony of thoughts and feelings about Christian values". Whilst worship is Christian in nature, pupils are encouraged to consider the wider world community and respect is paid to the beliefs and practices of other faiths. A clear distinction is made between assembly and Collective Worship which includes praise, stories, celebration and prayer. This is recognised by learners who respond positively; listening very well, participating willingly and singing enthusiastically. Opportunities exist for quiet times of personal reflection. Christian symbols, artefacts and displays, along with calming music help to focus pupils' minds. Pupils talk of Collective Worship times being important and helpful to them personally and to the life of the school. The school benefits greatly from the steadfast involvement of the Vicar whose weekly contributions introduce sensitively the use of distinctly Anglican traditions, prayers and responses. Being known and respected by all the children, his sincere, encouraging manner has clearly been a supportive, spiritual thread running through school life in recent years and contributes well, in a quiet way, to the impact of Collective Worship on the school community. There are family services held in school where The Eucharist is given to adults and pupils are introduced to its significance. The school visits their local church as often as is practically possible for key Christian festivals and special events. Staff keep a record of the content of daily Collective Worship. Neither effective reviews of planning nor monitoring or evaluation of the quality and impact of Collective Worship are yet in place, but there is demonstrably evidence of work in progress towards developing this area of school life! An updated Collective Worship policy was adopted in December 2006.

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

The Head Teacher has a clear personal Christian vision which is evident in the school's ethos. Key documents reflect the Anglican heritage. The development of Values Education linked to worship is given prominence in the School Development Plan. Supported by the Foundation Governors the school provides direction, encouragement and a good example of Christian care and concern and education that is based on and reflects Christian values. Adults are good role models ensuring that children grow in respect for themselves, each other and other people. Collective Worship is an important part of school life helping to provide an environment where pupils may grow spiritually. The management of R.E. is good. It is a respected subject which teachers successfully relate to every day human experience. An updated R.E. policy was adopted in December 2006. Foundation governors, Head Teacher and staff participate in and appreciate Diocesan events, support and training. Governors, parents and learners are increasingly involved in the school's self evaluation process. Currently steps are in hand to implement the recommendations from the previous Section 23 inspection.