

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Chapmanslade Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

High Street
Chapmanslade
Westbury
Wiltshire
BA13 4AN

Diocese: Salisbury

Local authority: Wiltshire
Dates of inspection: 29th January 2007
Date of last inspection: 18/06/2003
School's unique reference number: 126396
Headteacher: Mrs. Joss Jewell
Inspector's name and number: The Rev. Mary Garrard 19

School context

This three-class village school is in the heart of the village, with the church almost part of the school grounds. There is a strong community feel about this Church of England school. Church, village and school are mutually dependent on each other. There are 83 children on roll of which 50% come through parental choice rather than catchment area. At the time of the inspection the RE specialist/co-ordinator had been on maternity leave since October.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Chapmanslade Primary school as a Church of England school are good and in some areas outstanding

The ethos of the school is one of mutual respect and the need for every member, adult or child, to maintain the equilibrium that is vital for everyone's well being. The day begins with an Act of Collective Worship that encourages stilling and reflection. The children exhibit respect and care for the whole school community throughout the day and an ability to express thoughts and feelings in an atmosphere that accepts everyone's contributions.

Established strengths

- The pastoral and spiritual links with the local church and clergy
- The daily Act of Collective Worship, encouraging the spiritual life of each participant
- The ethos and effectiveness of the Enhancing Children's Learning project

Focus for development

- The RE scheme of work
- Differentiated and imaginative tasks in RE, (not just differentiated by outcome)
- A co-ordinated and visible evaluation and assessment system

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

The school's Mission Statement "All learning together in a Christian community, nurturing and developing lively minds in a caring environment," is seen in practice in all aspects of school life. Standards of education are high as seen in the results of national testing and a close working relationship amongst children, staff, parents and governors is fostered. One parent commented that she liked the fact that if you offer to help you are never turned away. It was particularly noted in the infant classroom that Y1 children were encouraged to work with, and support, the reception children and that they did so happily and conscientiously. This firm foundation means that the same attitude permeates through the whole school. Children are helped to feel secure in order that they may learn. This in turn means that everyone is prepared to have a try and offer an opinion. As another parent said, "The school is as near perfect as you're going to get."

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Parents and governors are welcome to worship with the school whenever they wish, although parents mainly choose to come for special occasions and worship in church. Children and adults speak of feeling calm and peaceful and of enjoying the music. Stillness, reflection and togetherness are a major element in the worship. Children have spoken about how the prayer time helps them to think of family members, people in need and of God. The younger children are able to join in the prayers and singing as a result of being part of whole school worship. An opening versicle and response is said each day as is the Lord's prayer and the Grace. Older children spoke of being able to say these prayers on their own at home. The children well understand the significance of the lighted candle and other worship symbols are used at different times. The worship themes follow a two -year cycle and often link with learning in RE or with major and minor church festivals. They are evaluated on the planning. The ex officio governor has worked closely with the Head Teacher and staff to develop the worship in its present form.

The effectiveness of the religious education is always satisfactory and mostly good.

The school usually benefits from a class teacher who has specialised in RE and is the co-ordinator. She teaches RE throughout KS2 leading to planning that develops pupils knowledge and thinking skills. Due to the fact that she is on maternity leave and the upper KS2 teacher is on long term sick leave there were no assessment records for me to see for the upper part of the school. Older pupils spoke enthusiastically and knowledgeably about work they had done on the Qu'ran and others talked about the Torah. Wall displays reflect the work done and include children's work and photos. At present the SOW is based on the first edition of Thinking Together (Agreed Syllabus) and QCA materials. The school intends to use the new Agreed Syllabus from September after a TD day with the co-ordinator, other staff and clergy. Teachers annotate their planning grids to evaluate a particular lesson. An RE lesson on Special Places with KS1 was particularly effective and will make a good foundation for work to be done in Church. All pupils contributed as a class and in paired work.

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

The school benefits from the vision and enormous energy of the Head Teacher combined with an enthusiastic and knowledgeable governing body and clergy who are regularly in school, know the children well and encourage the staff. One Foundation Governor has written, "The Foundation Governors work well together as a team and [we] take time to consider the importance of our role as the spiritual leaders of the school and the implications of this." It is obvious that spirituality pervades the whole of the school's life.

The fact that the school has continued to run smoothly and maintained its hold on the whole curriculum during this time of staffing difficulties is a tribute to all those concerned, not least to those who have come in to "hold the fort." Parents spoke of how little the school had been disrupted due to the commitment of the supply staff to be in the school long term.

The Head Teacher is passionate about the aims and objectives of The Enhancing Children's Learning project and has ensured that all staff are well trained in its ethos and practicalities. Its influence can be seen throughout the school, being appropriately placed in the context of the Christian ethos and, as such, each child is seen as being made in the image of God, nurtured according to his/her needs and is a highly valued member of the community.