

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Clunbury Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Clunbury  
Craven Arms  
Shropshire  
SY7 0HE

**Diocese: Hereford**

Local authority: Shropshire  
Dates of inspection: Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2007  
Date of last inspection: February 2003  
School's unique reference number: 123541  
Headteacher: Mr Andrew Davis  
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Ann Mundy

### **School context**

Clunbury CE Primary School is a small rural school of 76 pupils who come from the local village and surrounding area. A very small number of pupils come from minority ethnic backgrounds. The school has strong links with the local church and with the community. The headteacher was appointed in January 2005. A substantial building programme is in progress. The school has recently been awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark, Active Mark Sport, Active Mark Gold, Healthy Schools Award and the ICT mark.

### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Clunbury CE Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding**

Clunbury CE Primary School is an outstanding church school. It clearly creates a very good Christian ethos and pupils are very well cared for and supported. Christian values underpin and permeate its work. It is very well led and has strong support from the two local ministers. Collective Worship and teaching and learning in religious education are strengths of the school. All the learners, governors, parents and staff interviewed about the school spoke warmly about the positive relationships in school, the exceptional care for the children and the wide range of spiritual, educational, social and cultural experience that the school offers.

### **Established strengths**

- The outstanding leadership of the head teacher who together with his staff actively promotes Christian values throughout the school community.
- The attitudes and behaviour of learners is excellent.
- The positive impact of RE and Collective Worship on the school community, strengthened and supported by strong relationships with the local clergy.
- The excellent leadership of the RE and Collective Worship Co-ordinator.

### **Focus for development**

- To provide opportunities for all Governors to experience and celebrate the strengths, successes and achievements of the school.
- To build on current links with the PCC, to provide a supportive partnership.
- To include the assessment of RE within the school's secure tracking system.

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

The school is outstanding in the way in which it meets the needs of all learners. The Christian ethos is very strong and is evident in all aspects of school life. The quality of care for all learners and the attention given to the pupils' personal development is outstanding. Spiritual development, provided through collective worship, religious education and an appreciation of the natural world is excellent. Christian values are explicitly modelled, by children and staff alike. The atmosphere around the school is relaxed yet purposeful, relationships are supportive and encouraging. The children are extremely well behaved and actively provide support for one another. Displays around the school are bright and cheerful, promoting Christian values, healthy living, RE work and links with the parish.

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

The school provides daily collective worship for all pupils and this is central to school life. Worship is outstanding and is very well planned and organised. Links to the Parish Church are strong. Local clergy lead worship in school and take part in services for special services such as Harvest and Easter. Pupils and staff regularly complete a collective worship evaluation form which is used to inform future planning. Pupils are respectful and attentive when they meet for worship. Christian symbols such as a lighted candle, a cross and a bible contributed to an appropriate and reverent atmosphere. The learners were fully involved, singing with enthusiasm and joining in with the prayers. The Lord's Prayer was well known and there were opportunities for reflection. The atmosphere was warm and friendly, one little girl automatically moved to share my hymn book with a welcoming smile.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding**

There is a high level of commitment to religious education, which is well resourced and led very effectively by a committed and enthusiastic co-ordinator. RE strongly supports the values underpinning the school's distinctive Christian character. Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and 2 teachers plan together and the teaching is of a high standard, well planned, interesting, relevant to the children's lives and linked to other curriculum subjects. The quality of work is good and it is marked with care. Learners are given time to read and respond to written comments and questions about their work. The sensitive use of marking partners is a valuable aid to assessment in RE, although RE is not at present included in the whole school tracking system. Visits widen the children's experience and understanding of other faiths and cultures.

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

The head teacher has built and sustained a strong relationship with the local community, governors, staff and parents. A member of staff commented, 'I have never felt so valued.' The head teacher has ensured that church and diocesan links are supportive and frequent. Following his lead, the school has a clear vision and commitment to pupil's overall development. Foundation and parent governors know the school very well and work with the head teacher in an effective partnership. The relationship between school and governors could be further strengthened by acknowledgement or affirmation by the governors of the school's many strengths and successes. Links between the school and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are at an early stage of development. Staff, governors and parents are fully aware of the Christian aims and ethos of the school and understand the needs of the community they serve. Parents particularly appreciate the strong church links and the care that their children receive, acknowledging the positive impact that the distinctive Christian ethos has on their children.

SIAS report. 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007. Clunbury CE (Aided) Primary School, Clunbury, Craven Arms, Shropshire. SY7 0HE