

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Clutton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Broxton Road,  
Clutton,  
Tattenhall,  
Chester  
CH3 9ER

#### Diocese: Chester

Local authority: Cheshire

Dates of inspection: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Date of last inspection: 2004

School's unique reference number: 111280

Headteacher: Mrs Barbara Hinds

Inspector's name and number: Miss Heather Starkie – NS 179

#### School context

Clutton Church of England Primary School is a small school situated in a rural location, a few miles south of Chester. There are 48 children on roll. The school serves the local village community and also draws children from the surrounding areas. Pupils are predominantly of white British ethnicity and are from a mix of socio economic backgrounds. The school is regarded as the focal point within the village and very close relationships exist between the school, the church and the local community.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Clutton as a Church of England school are outstanding.**

The school lies at the heart of the local community and has a warm and welcoming family atmosphere. There is a strong, distinctive Christian ethos which has a positive impact upon the children's personal development and well being, as well as their academic attainment. Christian principles and values are promoted effectively and respect towards others underpins the work of the school.

#### Established strengths

- The clear vision of the headteacher and her commitment to promoting Christian values within the daily life of the school.
- The staff team who work well together and who support each other.
- The very effective pastoral care and support provided for all children within school.
- The effective involvement and support of governors in the leadership and management of the school.
- The effective links between the school, the church and the local community.

#### Focus for development

- To further develop the children's knowledge, understanding and experience of cultural diversity.
- To work alongside the new incumbent to maintain and further enhance the Christian character of the school.

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

Christian principles and values underpin all aspects of school life. Relationships within the school community are characterised by Christian love, care, forgiveness and respect towards others. The "Citizen of the Week Award" acknowledges children's care, kindness and consideration shown towards other people. Children enjoy school and are happy. Staff work hard to promote the personal development and well being of each individual child. This has a

positive impact on the children's learning and achievement. The school is fully committed to the inclusion of all children and has recently been awarded the "Inclusion Quality Mark". Children feel valued and respected as individuals. Children's work and achievements are celebrated through effective displays within classrooms and around school. The weekly "Celebration Assembly" provides opportunities to share children's successes both within school as well as outside of school. Behaviour is good. Pupils understand the concept of right and wrong which contributes to their moral development. Effective systems are in place to encourage good behaviour. Children enjoy collecting "Pasta Points" within their classes and they look forward to "Golden Time" as a reward for good behaviour. Older children take responsibility for a variety of roles including looking after the reception children at the beginning of the new school year. They also act as "playleaders", organising playground games for the younger children. Children's spiritual development is good. Opportunities are provided, within worship and within the wider life of the school, which enable children to reflect upon and appreciate the wonder and beauty of God's creation. Traditions and beliefs of other cultures are explored effectively. Children have recently visited Bishop Heber School to participate in a Hindu festival entitled "Handful of Henna". Plans are in place to establish links with a school in China, further developing children's appreciation of cultural diversity. The Christian character is evident within the school environment. Christian displays portray very well to visitors and the local community that the school has a strong Christian foundation.

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

Worship has a significant impact in promoting the Christian character of the school and in developing the children's knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. It is an important feature of school life and is respected and enjoyed by the children. Worship is planned effectively. The main Christian festivals are celebrated and the worship pattern follows very clear Christian themes. A good range of experiences are provided, including stories, drama and role play. A very good example of whole school worship observed within the inspection focused on the theme of "Mothering Sunday" and the care and love provided by mothers. Effective questioning encouraged children to think and to reflect on their own experiences, making a positive impact on their spiritual development. Prayer is an integral feature of worship. Children respond well to prayers and they are encouraged to write their own prayers for inclusion in class worship and whole school worship. Children's spiritual development is good and they focus on the focal point of a cross and a candle, during worship. Children participate well. They listen attentively and sing with enthusiasm and clarity. They are involved in evaluating worship and are able to reflect on themes discussed. Opportunities are also provided for children to share their views about local, national and worldwide issues. The headteacher, who is also the worship co-ordinator, has a very good understanding of the importance of and the role of worship within the life of the school. There are very close links between the school and the church. School attends church to celebrate the main Christian festivals. The school has worked hard to maintain the links with the church during a period of interregnum. Excellent support has been provided by local, retired clergy who have continued to lead worship in school on a regular basis and have led school worship in church on several occasions. They have also continued to support units of work within religious education. This has included explaining the significance of the Eucharist to the older children and carrying out a mock baptism and a mock wedding with the Key Stage One children.

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

The headteacher has a very clear distinctive Christian vision and is fully committed to developing and promoting the Christian ethos and character of the school. Her vision is effectively shared with staff and governors. Staff feel valued, they work well together and support each other. The very good team spirit which exists helps staff and children to feel they are part of a caring and Christian community. The school's Mission Statement has recently been reviewed and clearly reflects Christian faith and values. Governor involvement and support is outstanding. Governors have a very clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities and are well informed. They provide challenge as well as support for the headteacher and staff team and are effective in ensuring the Christian foundation is reflected

and promoted within the daily life of the school. Governors and staff have been involved in undertaking an evaluation of the school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a church school. Areas for further development have been included within the school's action plans and school improvement plans. The school's partnership with parents is excellent. Parents are very supportive and appreciate the way in which the school promotes Christian principles and values and provides a caring Christian environment where children are happy and enjoy their learning. There is an "Open Door" policy where parents are encouraged to share any concerns they have with staff. A series of popular and successful "Parenting Workshops" have recently been organised, providing support for parents. The school has also established excellent links with other local schools and the local community. Staff and children are currently involved in a collaboration project through the Broxton Federated Groups of Schools Cluster. The school has also worked alongside the local community in helping to raise money through a sponsored walk for the development of the new school and community playground area. Children are involved in many of the decision making processes. There is an established and effective school council which enables the headteacher to gather the children's views. Children feel their suggestions are valued and are taken seriously. Representatives currently serving on the school council are articulate and make important and worthwhile contributions to the further development of the school.

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