

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Cockfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Church Lane
Cockfield
Bury St Edmunds
IP30 0LA

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Suffolk LA

Date of Previous Inspection: 8th and 9th November 2004

Dates of Inspection: 1st and 2nd November 2007

Unique Reference Number 124694

Headteacher: Mrs A Morley

Inspector's Name and NS Number Mr E Green 267

School Context

Cockfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a smaller than average Church of England Voluntary Controlled school situated about eight miles south of Bury St Edmunds. The school caters for 74 pupils aged 4 to 9; there are four classes in the morning and three in the afternoon. The majority of pupils are of White British heritage. The proportion of children who find learning more difficult or have a statement of special educational needs is in line with the national average. The percentage of pupils who are entitled to a free school meal is below the national average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Cockfield School as a Church of England Primary School are outstanding.

Christian values and Christian worship underpin all aspects of school life. These Christian values, which are put into action so effectively, contribute to a strong Christian ethos which permeates the whole school and makes a clear and distinctive contribution to the way all pupils are able to fully develop and achieve their potential. There is an excellent working relationship between the school, the church and the community.

Established Strengths

- Excellent links with the local Anglican Church and community.
- A caring and inclusive ethos based on Christian Values
- Strong and effective leadership by the headteacher and governing body.

Focus for Development

- To involve the pupils in all aspects of collective worship.
- To complete the planned review of the school's mission statement and aims.

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

The school places great importance on all aspects of each pupil's personal development and has high expectations of all its pupils. Pupils care for each other and work together well; they are confident and secure in a friendly, caring and supportive learning environment. Pupils speak of feeling valued, listened to and being able to make a positive contribution to the life of the school. They acknowledge and understand how the Christian values which the school promotes so well impact on the whole of their school life. For example, they understand the need to forgive and be forgiven and they talk of further Christian values such as respect and love for all and how these can be integrated into school life. Older pupils support younger ones through, for example, being lunch time play leaders. School and individual achievements are celebrated every week at a special sharing assembly. Less able and gifted pupils are extremely well catered for through the provision of individual education plans and support staff. Good relationships, characterised by Christian values such as care, concern, love and forgiveness exist throughout the school and all members of the school community appreciate this. The views of pupils are taken into account through the School Council, Eco Committee and Healthy School Committee. Commitment to Christian values in action has seen the school raise a significant amount of money, and support a number of charities such as 'Operation Christmas Child'. With the support of staff, parents and the local Christian community the school is able to run a number of extra curricular activities including a very well attended 'Crossed Keys' club which is described as a 'Monday Sunday School'. The pupils talk of the enjoyment and benefit of these clubs. Excellent use is made of the school environment – inside and out. There are stimulating wall displays linked to the worship theme and Christian year. Outside there are various areas for creative play as well as a designated quiet area. Relationships within the school are excellent.

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

Christian collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is attended not only by all pupils but most of the staff. Once a week the worship is led by the Rector – the pupils greatly enjoy these times of worship. At this time of worship the Rector gives each pupil a prayer to put in their school prayer books. Other local ministers also lead collective worship. Good use is made in the acts of worship of traditional and Anglican prayers and also prayers which the pupils have written. The Lord's Prayer is used on a regular basis. A simple lighted candle is used to make clear the time of worship – the school is in the process of adding other aids to worship, such as, coloured cloths to depict the Christian calendar. The daily act of worship is seen as a time of day for all the school to be together for quiet prayer, song, thought and reflection. Worship is very well planned and organised and good detailed records are kept. The pupils are involved in the worship – they help choose the songs and music and each class leads a time of worship each term. Pupils can comment on the worship or express their feelings in the pupil collective worship book. The school is already exploring how this involvement can be further advanced. The pupils greatly enjoy collective worship – they are interested and responsive and participate readily in the school's worship time. They can readily recount stories they have heard, dramas they have seen acted out and they understand how something talked of in collective worship, such as, forgiving others can be put into practice during the rest of the school day. Pupils also lead and write their own lunch time prayers. The school observes all the major festivals of the church's year and holds services in the Parish Church to mark these festivals. During the inspection visit pupils were actively involved in the planning and preparation of the Remembrance Day service. The services held in church are very well attended by parents and the rest of the

community.

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

There is an excellent working relationship between the Governing Body, the two Foundation Governors, and the headteacher – this is vital to the effective leadership of the school as a church school. This very good relationship is also evident in the way that the school, church and community support each other through, for example, prayer, service planning, making the school an agenda item at each PCC and joint fund raising. The foundation governors and other governors are aware of the school's Christian foundation and purpose, which are made clear in the school prospectus and the school's statement of aims – these are currently being reviewed. As part of their role the Foundation Governors will be leading one of the school's professional development days in 2008. The Foundation Governors work with the headteacher to make the school's Christian vision and foundation clear, from ensuring that the school notepaper makes clear that Cockfield is a Church of England school to seeing that this vision is also incorporated into the school development plan. All prospective employees are made aware of the school's Christian ethos and values. The governing body has in place a monitoring and evaluation system and Foundation Governors know that part of their role is to be involved in monitoring and evaluating the 'distinctiveness' of the school as a church school. Parents are very supportive of the school – there is an active 'Friends of Cockfield school'. Parents, pupils and staff are given an opportunity to become involved through the use of questionnaires and consultation. Staff feel valued and part of all that a church school does and stands for, a member of staff who is not a practising Christian said, "I am very much a part of it yet not of it". The school has in place both performance management and well being schemes for staff.

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