

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Colne Engaine Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Green Farm Road,
Colne Engaine,
Colchester
CO6 2HA

Diocese: Chelmsford

Local authority: Essex
Dates of inspection: 11th December 2007
Date of last inspection: May 2004
School's unique reference number: 115135
Headteacher: Mrs. Jill James
Inspector's name and number: John Thurley NS37

School context

Colne Engaine Primary School is a small village school in a rural village outside Colchester. Most pupils come from the village although the majority are from non practising Christian families. Most pupils are white British and those requiring free school meals or have learning disabilities are below the national average. The school roll is 106.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Colne Engaine as a Church of England school are good

Colne Engaine is a good school with some outstanding features. The wide range of activities for such a small school, with music having a very high priority, gives broad opportunities for all to develop their skills.

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Established strengths

- The Christian belief is at the centre of all the school's activities
- The very strong links with the local church and the local village community
- The commitment of the incumbent to work with the school

Focus for development

- The careful evaluation of the school's activities with special reference to the Toolkit
- To define the standards achieved in Religious Education with the National Guidelines
- To evaluate further the effect of Collective Worship on all learners

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

All pupils at the school said that they felt valued and all acknowledged that the Christian input to the school was marked. Relationships are very good between all sections of the school community. All commented on the family feeling endemic in the school with the pupils very complimentary towards the standard of care and teaching that they had on a daily basis. The buddy system ensures that all members of the learning community are welcomed into the family and ensures that newcomers are quickly involved in the activities. The school gives excellent opportunities for all in their wide programme of extra curricular activities including music and sporting activities before and after school. There are artefacts throughout the school that proclaim the Christian nature of the school including the cross in the school hall and at the time of the inspection the advent wreaths that were used in worship.

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The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship has a place of vital importance to the life of the school. It is led enthusiastically by staff and most pupils engage with it. The music and singing is very good and the school is well supported by the incumbent and other local Christians. Pupils agreed that they enjoyed school assemblies. The headteacher and the incumbent are working towards a Eucharist for the older members of the school as part of their education in the Anglican tradition. Collective Worship involves use of the Parish Church and religious activities involve the whole of the local village. Prayer is central to the life of the school. The headteacher is a very good leader in this aspect of her work

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The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Learning and teaching in RE is good. In the lessons observed both teachers used ICT to enhance the children's learning and pupils participated enthusiastically. In one lesson the teacher used drama effectively and pupils were encouraged to consider the feelings and experiences of the people involved in the story of the nativity. Photographs taken during the lesson were later used in the plenary so that the children could reflect on their work. Teacher's planning was thorough but more detailed and focused marking would allow the children the opportunity to become more involved in their own learning and help them to see ways in which they could improve their work. Displays around the school were good. The close links the school has with the local church allows them to use the church building to develop the children's understanding of Christian traditions as well as knowing it to be a place of worship.

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

The leadership of the head and governors is good with some outstanding features. The enthusiasm and commitment of the headteacher ensures that the school is focused on raising aspirations, developing opportunities to learn in an environment which reflects the school community and ensures that every child matters. The church foundation of the school is taken very seriously with the incumbent playing a leading role in worship within the school and the parish church. Governors, staff and parents are fully committed to the ethos and mission which the school clearly demonstrates through its life and work. The links with the community are extremely strong with the church playing a leading role in supporting the school and the whole village community. A number of outside Christian speakers lead worship on a regular basis and foundation governors play a strong role in supporting the learners in a positive way through support in the classroom.

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