

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Cubbington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Church Hill
Cubbington
Warwickshire
CV32 7JY

Diocese: Coventry

Local authority: Warwickshire
Date of inspection: 9th December 2009
Date of last inspection: 27th June 2007
School's unique reference number: 125660
Headteacher: Denise Thompson
Inspector's name and number: Geraldine Hansford 407

School context

Cubbington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a small village school. Most pupils come from Cubbington but some come from Leamington, Warwick and outlying villages. The pupils are almost all White British; very few are from other ethnic or different faith backgrounds. For a school of this size, there is a higher than average number of pupils with statements of special educational needs. The school has achieved Active Mark and a Healthy School award.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Cubbington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School as a Church of England school are good

The headteacher and governors secure a whole-school commitment to *"achieving, belonging, caring"*. This ensures that pupils of all abilities are welcomed and encouraged to learn in an inclusive and supportive environment where every effort is made to meet their needs in full and where each individual has the opportunity to experience success.

Established strengths

- The strong Christian ethos which is reflected in the school's caring atmosphere
- Acts of worship which give direction to the life and work of the school
- The strong links between the school, the parish church and the wider community

Focus for development

- Establish a clear vision for the future development of the school as a church school
- Establish a whole-school process, which will involve pupils, parents, staff and governors, for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the school, as a church school
- Ensure that the evaluation process is used to determine the development of the school as a church school

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

The school provides a Christian environment for learning which fulfils Christ's commandment to *"love one another"*. Pupils have a strong sense that all children are valued as individuals and are welcomed and accepted into the life of the school. Parents comment on the high level of care given to the pupils and the mutual respect shared by all members of the school community. This was summed up by one parent who said that the children *"feel safe, loved and respected"*. The caring ethos is an important factor in parental choice of school. Pupils are enthusiastic about their school and recognise the opportunities it offers for them to succeed. As one pupil remarked, *"Everyone has something that they are good at"*. This attitude is fostered in the monthly achievement assembly where a wide range of achievement is highlighted and celebrated. The content of assemblies and collective worship is developed further in religious education (RE) lessons. All teachers deliver RE lessons which foster the pupils' understanding of the Christian faith and of other faiths and cultures and contribute to the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils' comments about *"exhilarating"* lessons show that they enjoy RE lessons and understand that what they are learning is

relevant to their own lives. The headteacher, staff and governors raise awareness of the needs of others within the school and in the local and wider community. The school offers its pupils a range of opportunities for showing care, consideration and support for others. These include concerts for the elderly, fundraising for charities chosen by the pupils and the provision of Operation Christmas Child 'Shoe box' Christmas gifts for children overseas. Through these initiatives the pupils learn to appreciate and understand the needs of others and the school, as a whole, makes a significant contribution to community cohesion. Pupils speak with pride about the wooden crosses outside and inside school which were made by a local carpenter from a tree that used to stand in the churchyard. Their response to the creativity of the carpenter and the natural beauty of the wood reveals a growing spiritual awareness.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The daily act of collective worship provides a firm foundation for the life and work of the school. It is led by pupils, staff, the headteacher, local clergy and visitors. The local vicar is a regular visitor to the school. Pupils know her well and enjoy the occasions when she leads them in worship at school and in church. Pupils talk with interest and enthusiasm about the variety of worship experiences which include story telling, music and drama. They speak knowledgeably about bible stories and readings and comment on how they can relate the stories to themselves. They say, for example, that they know how they should behave towards other people because they learn how Christ treated others. As one pupil said: *"I like the way we worship all together, talking about God and learning about morals."* Parents reinforce this view by commenting on the extent to which worship promotes a strong moral code and by describing the ways in which children's behaviour is influenced by what they learn from the parables. The comments from children and parents confirm that worship effectively supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils. Worship topics are carefully planned to support the development of the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, festivals of other faiths and significant local, national and international events. Staff use RE and other lessons effectively to follow up particular worship topics. Parents appreciate that the school enables pupils to experience worship even if they are not regular church attenders. They particularly value the whole school prayers for sick pupils and say that these prayers mean a great deal to the children. Governors attend worship and report back to the governing body. In response to the focus for development identified in the previous inspection for the school to consider ways of involving pupils in developing and evaluating worship, the governors have spoken to small groups of pupils and take their views into account. Parents offer their views on worship, as appropriate. Staff are involved in discussions about worship and contribute their ideas and opinions. Formal processes for the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship are not yet in place.

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

The headteacher and governors share a vision for the school that is embedded in the aims statement of *"achieving, belonging, caring"*. Informal discussions with all those involved in the school enable school leaders to secure a total commitment to the aims statement and ensure that every individual feels valued as a member of the school community. The headteacher and governors regularly review the work of the school as a church school. Children and adults confirm that they feel able to freely contribute their views and they are confident that the school will respond appropriately to their comments. Pupils demonstrate a growing appreciation and understanding of the ways in which Christian teaching influences school life. Pupils, parents and other adults recognise that attitudes and behaviour in the school are influenced by the teaching of Christ to *"do to others what you would have them do to you"*. Other Christian values are not so readily identified by children or adults but governors are discussing ways to clarify those that shape the character of the school. Governors also aim to support community cohesion by highlighting the common values which are shared by Christians and followers of other faiths. The governors have begun the recruitment process to appoint a new headteacher for September 2010. This has provided them with the opportunity for careful reflection and reconsideration of the vision for the school *"to encompass the wider horizons of the 21st century"*. There are very strong links between the church, the community and the school which result in mutual support for a wide range of events and initiatives. This enables pupils to develop citizenship skills and to appreciate their role in church and community life.