

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Dame Tipping Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

North Road,
Havering-atte-Bower,
Romford,
RM4 1PS

Diocese of Chelmsford

Havering LA

SIAS inspection: 12th December 2006

Date of last inspection: 28th May 2002

School's Unique reference number: 102327

Name of Headteacher: Miss Viv Morris

SIAS Inspector: Ms S. Lynch, NS 128

School context

The school is a smaller than average school to which pupils travel from the local village and surrounding areas. It is situated on a main road, approximately half a mile from the parish church. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds. The proportion of pupils who are eligible for free school meals, or who have learning difficulties, is below average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Dame Tipping as a Church of England school are good, with some outstanding features.

There is a pleasant family atmosphere in this small school which allows all children to participate in a variety of activities. Church links are strong and valued by pupils, parents and staff. Christian values are well established and underpin the whole life of the school. Pupils are smartly dressed in uniform, articulate and excellent ambassadors for the school.

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Established strengths

- The outstanding quality of relationships across the whole school community which value all pupils and enable excellent personal, social, moral and spiritual development.
- Well established, strong links with the parish church.
- Creative and effective use of a small site, and modern technology, providing an attractive and well used learning environment.
- Breadth of opportunities for pupils to participate in a variety of extra curricular activities, including music, sports and a church club.

Focus for development

- Conduct a thorough review of the R.E. policy and programme to include more multi-faith and cross curricular aspects.
- Establish a firm base of school self evaluation using the N.S. / Diocesan Toolkit.

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

The school meets the needs of all learners outstandingly well. All pupils feel valued and speak of the school as 'one big family'. Pupils clearly enjoy school and are keen to talk about the strong points. All ages support each other and value links with the church. Pupils enjoy going to the church at special times such as Harvest and Easter. Year 6 are given Bibles at a special church service when they leave and pupils look forward to this, but say that they do not want to leave the school. The small and intimate size of the school allows all pupils to participate in activities such as the choir and every Year

6 pupil is a member of the School Council. Christian values are evident around the school and parents report no bullying. The school has an effective system for 'saying sorry' when minor problems do arise. Pupils support charities in a variety of ways such as 'Lent Games' which are wholly pupil organised to raise money to sponsor two Gambian boys, as well as Christmas activities. A local resident spoke very highly of the school and valued his Harvest gift. Children enjoy giving, 'We don't just help each other, we help people in the world', said one girl. School Council is a relatively new innovation and has already led to changes in school meals and proposed work on the toilets. The school environment is attractive, with appropriate displays, including some on Advent and one on Divali.

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The impact of collective worship on the school community is good with some outstanding elements.

A well established weekly pattern of Collective Worship provides pupils with a variety of experiences – whole school 'family' times with the Headteacher, celebration assemblies with the Deputy Headteacher and a 'Bible based' activity worship for KS2 with a church group. A lack of permanent music specialist means that singing is limited to once a week but pupils speak of the 'holy songs' that they sing and the school choir sang traditional carols and modern Christmas songs (both sacred and secular) with feeling. Pupils behave well in worship times and in one example were able to answer questions on Advent with some understanding. They are keen to contribute to the growing school prayer book. At the start of every act of worship a quiet time for reflection is respected by all pupils. Superb use was made in an Advent assembly of a new interactive plasma screen to showing nativity pictures and play a carol, making for a dignified entry and exit. Pupils are able to recite the Lord's Prayer, which is used weekly, although they are not all familiar with the final 'doxology'. Grace is said respectfully by all pupils before lunch. Younger pupils all took part in a delightful nativity play which was rooted firmly in the Bible message. There is a clear outline worship scheme for the year and the Worship Policy is helpful for all involved in leading.

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

A newly constituted, smaller governing body, works very effectively with the Headteacher and her staff. All governors are wholly committed to their work, several being present at a school nativity play. Recent documentation is clearly embedded in the Christian basis of the school. The Ethos statement contains explicit reference to the church foundation and Christian values. Parents speak highly of the school as a church school and while there are few actively church going families, many choose the school for it's ethos. The school is oversubscribed each year. Pupils have a part to play in school development through the School Council and they recognise the holistic nature of their education. One girl stated, 'They [teachers] care about our health as well as our education'. School self assessment recognises areas for development in Religious Education and the Headteacher is working on this, taking responsibility herself for this important area. Excellent church links are being maintained during the current interregnum. A team lead a weekly KS2 act of worship and another team runs an after school club which is well attended, has a clear Bible based structure and links in with other schools, pupils had enjoyed a joint schools activity through this. The positive ethos right across the school clearly reflects Christian values.

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