

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

The Dassett Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School,

Memorial Road,
Fenny Compton,
Southam
CV47 2XU

Diocese: Coventry

LA : Warwickshire

Date of inspection :11/1/08

Date of last inspection : 28/6/04

School's Unique reference number : 130379

Name of Headteacher: Barbara Williams - Cooke

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number : Rosemary Privett 321

Context of the school

The Dassett Church of England Primary school serves several villages in and around Fenny Compton. Nearly all the pupils are from white British backgrounds and very few from minority ethnic backgrounds. The school has an above average number of pupils with learning difficulties and or disabilities. The original Victorian building has been sensitively extended over the years.

The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a church school are outstanding.

The school is very well led and managed by a committed headteacher who is ably supported by an equally committed staff and governing body. A very strong Christian ethos underpins all aspects of school life. All members of the school community feel valued, and relationships are based on mutual trust and respect. Parents speak very highly of the school.

Established strengths

- The very positive ethos of the whole school community and exemplary behaviour and attitudes of the pupils.
- Well planned acts of worship which contribute to pupil's spiritual, social and moral development.
- Strong partnership with parents, parish and the community.
- The many opportunities for children to take responsibility and make a positive contribution.

Focus for development

- Consider ways in which the schools current self evaluation strategies could be extended, so that all views about the Christian distinctiveness of the school are taken into account.

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

The Dassett Church of England Primary School, is a kind, caring and very happy community. The school successfully fulfils its published aims and Christian values underpin all aspects of its work. A very tangible expression of the caring ethos is the way each day begins. Individuals are greeted by a member of staff at the door, so each pupil knows they are valued and special. Pupils enjoy their education and love

coming to school. They make good progress. They have a good understanding of what it means to be a Church school. The whole school behaviour code is embraced by all, and the standard of behaviour throughout the school is exemplary. There are many opportunities for the children to take responsibility. Older pupils act as prefects, monitors and buddies to younger pupils. Great compassion and care is demonstrated through these relationships. Parents are pleased to note how well the older pupils care for the younger ones. One parent said that the school enables the children to, "develop into the type of citizens that we want them to be". The school has a well thought out system of rewards, celebrating the achievements of all and enabling pupils to feel valued and special. The 'worry box' system for sharing concerns was understood and appreciated by the pupils. The School Council meet regularly, ensuring that the pupils' voices are heard. Members were able to give many examples of how they have made an impact on school life.

The pupils' understanding and appreciation of the wider world is developed well through charity fund raising initiatives and through links with a school in Uganda and a multi cultural school in Birmingham. The well planned programme for Religious Education and PSHE also makes a very good contribution to the spiritual, moral social and cultural development of the pupils. The success of the Religious Education programme is also evidenced by the many colourful and imaginative displays around the school.

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

Well planned acts of worship hold a place of major importance within the life of the school. Its impact can be seen in the views and attitudes of pupils and in the way that it permeates school life. A variety of staff members and visitors, including the vicar and the local Methodist minister lead acts of worship regularly. There are also plenty of opportunities for children to participate and take a leadership role. The pupil's attitudes to worship are very good. They listen well, sing enthusiastically and respond appropriately to times of prayer and reflection. Pupil conferences are used effectively to ascertain the pupils' general views on worship. This is an area which could be developed further in order to ensure the continued development of the quality and integrity of worship. The Christian values promoted by the school, were evident when talking to pupils and they were able to describe how times of reflection helped them with issues to do with their everyday life. The Anglican tradition is honoured through the use of visual symbols, prayers and the celebration of major festivals. These celebrations take place in the church. They are greatly appreciated by all members of the school community and make a distinctive contribution to its life as a church school. Prayer is encouraged and is an important feature of the school day. Prayers are said at lunchtime and at the end of the school day and children were able to explain their purpose. A prayer of the week is displayed centrally and children are actively encouraged to add to it. These are shared in collective worship making them valuable to the individual.

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

The headteacher has a strong personal vision for the school which is shared by staff and governors and appropriately reflects its Christian foundation. She leads the school with energy and commitment, ably supported by an effective senior management team and governing body. The school's Christian distinctiveness is promoted well through whole school initiatives such as the recent JC day, Religious Education days and the regular involvement of local clergy. The governing body knows the school well and offers the headteacher effective challenge and support. A very strong sense of teamwork exists amongst the whole staff team. Some very effective systems are in place, which enable the school to make accurate judgements of its effectiveness as a Church School and pinpoint areas for development. Issues relating to the school's Christian distinctiveness feed into the School Improvement Plan, ensuring that there are purposeful and realistic plans in place for the school's

future development. This planning enables the governors and co ordinators to make a real difference. The strong leadership of the headteacher has meant that the established links between the school, the church and the community have continued to grow and develop. Many parents spoke positively of the ways in which the school seeks and values their views on a variety of issues. Although effective evaluation strategies are in place these could be extended so that all views about the Christian distinctiveness of the school are taken into account.

The Dasset Church of England Primary - Memorial Rd, Fenny Compton, Southam, CV47 2XU