

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Dickleburgh Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Harvey Lane  
Dickleburgh

#### **Diocese: Norwich**

Local authority: Norfolk

Dates of inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008

Date of last inspection: July 6<sup>th</sup> 2004

School's unique reference number: 121085

Headteacher: Mr James Richards

Inspector's name and number: Rev David Jackson

#### **School context**

The school is situated in a rural Norfolk village and enjoys modern well cared for accommodation. The 89 pupils come from the locality. The SATS results show a high level of achievement with over 80% of pupils gaining level 4 or above in English, Maths and Science. 20.2% of the pupils have special needs and these pupils are well supported by the school. Links between the parish church and the school are well established and many members of the community are involved in the school's life.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Dickleburgh CE VC Primary School as a Church of England school are good**

The head teacher and his team have worked hard to ensure that the school policies and practices reflect the Christian nature of the school. They are willing to discuss and evaluate new ideas which will help in the schools development and welcome the continuing challenges to improve. There is openness to the views of all involved including parents and pupils and a desire for the school to be truly inclusive. There have been considerable efforts made since the last inspection which have resulted in good progress with everyone striving for success. The input from local church members has ensured that the school has retained a spiritual dimension.

#### **Established strengths**

- The spirit of co-operation and the effective team work.
- Successful links between church and school promoting clear Christian values.
- The very commendable behaviour of pupils.
- The sense of family which has been created.

#### **Focus for development**

- Exploring a policy for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils.
- Developing the role of pupils in leading and taking part in collective worship.
- The appointment of a worship co-ordinator.
- Establishing a system for the formal monitoring of worship.

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

The school ethos emphasises thankfulness and praise. A DVD, which was available and on show at the prayer week in the parish church, has been produced showing how this statement was arrived at from reflection on particular scriptures. There are excellent relationships within the school and pupils are supportive and helpful to one another. A system of learning partnerships involves older pupils spending time hearing younger children read and this is really appreciated by pupils. Everyone feels valued and there is clear evidence of mutual support and a team spirit. The school is a happy place to be and work. Imaginative ways of encouraging good behaviour are employed and celebration assemblies tell stories of

achievement, good conduct, and successes both inside and outside school. All staff can access the 'Golden Book' and presentations are made to those whose names are recorded. A wide range of well attended extra-curricular activities is provided, including a before-school club with breakfast, which is a great help to parents, and a Christian Club called Treasure Seekers which helps pupils on their faith journey. Pupils are informed about and challenged to think of those less fortunate than themselves with compassion; supporting specific charities such as Christian Aid and Children in Need and this year's Harvest charity, 'Tools with a Mission'. The school is committed to providing a stimulating and positive learning environment for the pupils. Displays including R.E work are changed regularly and are interesting and helpful. The behaviour policy, the Christian aims and the competence of the staff have resulted in a school where the pupils are well-behaved, happy, secure and well cared for. The children know they will be helped when problems arise and that they will be fairly treated.

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.**

Collective worship is seen as important in the school as a way of reinforcing Christian values and the school aims; a variety of different times together is offered including teacher led and class assemblies as well as times when stories of the children's achievements in and out of school are shared. There is opportunity for silence and reflection and a visual focus of a cross or candle is used. The distinction between assembly and worship has been understood by those planning worship and the foundation governors were able to speak about this. The leading of worship is shared and foundation governors who are members of the parish church together with clergy play their part. Pupils also prepare and deliver material. There is a sense that what is provided is enjoyed and pupils can remember and discuss what they have gained. They are able to perceive the relevance of the stories they have been told. Parents are welcomed at the celebration assemblies and at worship held in the church, with which there are good links. The seasons of the Christian Year are followed, and worship is planned in advance in consultation with those involved. A school prayer has been produced and is both known and used, and pupils have been given a copy of the Lord's Prayer which they have learnt and is in daily use. Pupils commented that they enjoyed the singing.

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

There is good and clear direction from the Headteacher who embodies the Christian values of the school and works hard to promote co-operation and teamwork. He is willing to listen and consult and welcomes the challenges of creating an excellent school where the positive is always stressed and the best expected from everyone. The governing body, many of whom are committed worshippers in the local church, provides unstinting support in upholding Christian principles in decision making as well as providing practical support in school. Formal monitoring of collective worship has not been taking place and there is currently no worship co-ordinator, although a policy is in place as a result of work carried out following the last inspection. The lack of recent staff discussion or training relating to collective worship has been acknowledged with considerable honesty and the situation is being addressed. The opinions of parents are actively sought and acted upon. A daily opportunity is provided for consultation with the class teachers, and any parental concerns are taken seriously and dealt with in an efficient and caring manner. An open policy ensures parents are welcome at several different events. The school and its leaders are supported by prayer in the local church. The distinctive nature of the school is communicated to all potential new staff and discussed at interview. There is a commitment from the Head teacher and governors to develop the role of religious education in supporting the spiritual and moral growth of the pupils; this has led to the appointment of a new subject co-ordinator and plans to review the RE policy.