

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Dinton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hindon Road,
Dinton,
Wilts,
SP3 5HW

Diocese: Salisbury

LA: Wiltshire

Dates of Inspection: 21.05.2007

Date of last inspection: 5&8.03.2002

School's URN: 126383

Name of Headteacher: Mr Peter Kraye

Inspector (National Society Number): Mrs Marian Fulkes (18)

School Context

Dinton School changed from a First School to a Primary in September 2004. Following two reviews during the 1990s, it finally absorbed children from Fovant village in September 1998, and with them the support of a second incumbent. A new substantive head has just taken up his post after acting heads maintained the school's character for 15 months. 37% of children come from out of catchment, which includes several villages. The school is in the centre of the village on a busy main road.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Dinton as a Church of England school are satisfactory

Established strengths

- There are very strong links with the church, with clergy taking an active role in worship, an After School club and on the Governing body.
- The children are very positive about their school and enjoy their learning.
- The staff members are supportive of each other.

Focus for development

- The implementation of the National Society Toolkit, including discussion among Stakeholders.
- Re-evaluation of the way policies are written to demonstrate the distinctiveness of a church school.
- Development of staff as well as children in leading worship.

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

The Christian Character of the school is satisfactory. The children feel secure and safe at school and are happy to come. They enjoy their lessons, but are not always given enough challenge in their studies. There is little opportunity for reflection or prayer other than in collective worship. Displays with a Christian focus (eg fruits of the Spirit) would develop spirituality and demonstrate to all the importance of the faith within the community. There is a Christian after school club - Explorers - run by the curate which has a regular membership of about 9% of the children. Pupils have little contact with

members of other cultures; therefore, establishing a strong and positive multi-cultural programme of development would be of benefit to the school. .

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

The impact of worship is satisfactory. The two priests lead worship each week. All attend and join in the opening prayer and the Lord's prayer and Grace. In the Worship observed, there were some opportunities missed to link with the hymn and other points made which would have engaged the younger children more. Most children enjoy the time together and have a sense of community. The children know the two priests well and like them to visit their school. A Eucharist service is held at the end of each term, following preparation sessions; parents are invited and everyone joins in. All receive either communion or a blessing. Not all parents are comfortable about the Eucharist. General planning for worship needs evaluating towards improved provision. Impact would be greater if Collective Worship had more variety of leaders, including the pupils. Monitoring and evaluation records should be available to assist in training teachers and children unused to leading collective worship.

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

Leadership and management of the school are good. The Governing body is generally strong and supportive; defining the role of the governor might be useful for some. The chair of Governors and the headteacher are in regular contact. The new headteacher is experienced and has clear ideas of how he wishes to challenge both children and staff to improve standards and the Christian character of the school. Following stability, implementation of the NS toolkit and with a strong leadership and management structure, the focus of the Christian impact will become greater. The two priests are very active in their support of the school both as Governors and leaders of worship; the congregations and PCCs of both churches commit prayer time and money to support the school. The School Council are confident that their voice is heard. Some suggestions have been acted upon and reasons explained when not. Pupil 'Play-leaders' have been trained; everyone enjoys coming to school; there is no reported evidence of bullying. Parents are regularly consulted and informed about planned changes and events. They are happy with the appointment of the new head, and pleased that there will now be a period of stability.