

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Flore Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

The Avenue,
Flore,
Northampton,
Northamptonshire,
NN7 4LZ

Diocese: Peterborough

Local authority: Northamptonshire
Dates of inspection: 2 June 2009
Date of last inspection: 7 June 2006
School's unique reference number: 121970
Headteacher: Mrs. Jan Stoppani
Inspector's name and number: Robert Miller 357

School context

This small rural primary school serves Flore and the hamlet of Brockhall, although a number of children come from surrounding villages. Two thirds of all its pupils come from within the catchment area. There are 108 pupils on roll of which the vast majority come from White British backgrounds. Around one fifth of them have learning difficulties and or disabilities.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Flore Primary as a Church of England school are good

Flore is a very happy school where the children are its strength. Their mutual respect for each other and the adults in the school is clearly evident. The head teacher has created a place of learning in an oasis of calm. This has a positive effect on the way children conduct their lives and the thoughtful way they consider things before responding to them. Links between the school and church are good and the Vicar is a frequent visitor.

Established strengths

- Relationships throughout the school are excellent.
- The pupils' spiritual, moral social and cultural development is outstanding.
- Pupils' attitudes towards collective worship are positive.

Focus for development

- Introduce a consistent approach to having periods of reflection during acts of collective worship.
- Increase pupil participation in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of acts of collective worship.
- Survey parents, pupils and staff on ways to raise further still the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Flore as a church school.

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

Flore school is outstanding in its relationships, which are based on Christian principles. Children feel happy and secure. Their behaviour and attitudes to learning are excellent. They say they are valued as individuals and benefit from the warm family atmosphere. Christian values are evident in every part of the school particularly in the way pupils show care and concern for one another. Pupils, including those with learning difficulties and disabilities, enjoy coming to school, where they receive good support. All pupils seek to fulfil their potential and they say, 'Teachers are good, friendly and caring'. The Christian identity is apparent inside the school entrance. The children's art work is displayed alongside the cross. These features, which are accompanied by the school's mission statement, make an

outstanding impact on pupil's moral, social and cultural development. This together with the other high quality Christian wall displays throughout the school impacts on the spiritual development of pupils.

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

Acts of collective worship are good in quality. The themes for worship lead on from lessons planned around the social and emotional part of the curriculum. Children say that this makes them think harder about moral and religious issues and they enjoy taking part in acting out Bible stories. Whilst they take part in the evaluation of worship they would also like the opportunity to participate in its planning. Worship forms an important and integral part of school life. Pupils enjoy the opportunity to pray. One said, 'It keeps Jesus in mind throughout the day'. Most pupils know and understand the Lord's prayer. All pupils say the grace at lunch. Acts of worship take place in the hall, which is transformed for this purpose by a cross and lighted candle which act as a focal point. It has wall displays that add to making it a special place for the purpose of worship. Pupils say they enjoy singing hymns during collective worship and that heard was of high quality. Worship makes a positive contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development, but the opportunity for them to reflect on the theme for the day is not always consistently applied. Every one of all faiths and none derive strength from worship. The Christian clergy are frequent visitors and the Anglican tradition is valued and pupils' understanding of it grows.

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

The high quality of the leadership of the head teacher contributes significantly to the success of the school. The headteacher promotes a clear Christian vision by being a good role model to the whole school community. She leads by example, showing enthusiasm for all she does and displaying a caring and compassionate nature. She has secured a great team spirit among the newly appointed school's managers and staff members. The school has high expectations of the pupils and their behaviour towards each other reflects this. The school's management team and governors have established clear systems that inform the school's good self-evaluation process. The foundation governors contribute to its success by their monitoring and evaluation of collective worship. The school improvement and development plan has a specific target directed towards raising the quality of collective worship still further. Religious education is well monitored and evaluated in an effort to continuously raise the good standards that already exist. This represents good improvement since the last inspection. Governors share the Christian vision for the school. Parents, staff and pupils do too but have yet to be formally surveyed for their views in an effort to raise the profile of this church school still higher. There are good links with the parochial church council [PCC] by virtue of governors being members of both. The nearby All Saints church is used for some school services and as a learning resource. Parents speak very highly of all that the school does to ensure their children flourish as individuals.