

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Four Marks Church Of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Five Lanes End

Four Marks

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 5AS

Diocese:

Winchester

LA:

Hampshire

Dates of inspection:

2nd May 2007

Date of last inspection:

21st and 25th June 2001

School's Unique reference number: 116288

Name of Headteacher:

Mrs Lynda Frith

Inspectors name:

Mrs Phyllis Baxter

Preface

This inspection was carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 to report to the governors on the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Church of England schools. The inspection was carried out under contract to the governing body of the school.

School Context.

Four Marks Church of England Primary School serves a large village in rural Hampshire. The school benefits from an idyllic setting and enjoys extensive grounds, which have been developed to provide an outstanding learning resource. Children are predominantly of white British heritage with a fifth of pupils having Special Educational Needs.

Previous Inspection Details Progress since the last inspection

The school was last inspected on 21st and 25th June 2001 with the many good features reported being sustained and attention given to the very few issues for development.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Four Marks as a Church of England school are good

School is a good Church School with a distinctive Christian ethos. The standard of care and provision for learners is good and the school is working hard to ensure that they achieve high standards of progress and attainment.

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

The school places high priority on developing each child's relationship with God and this is at the heart of the curriculum. Every child is valued and loved and provided with a rich curriculum designed to give a rounded and balance education to prepare them for life. Pupils are given plentiful opportunities to develop positive skills, attitudes and relationships. Citizenship activities are designed to encourage children to take responsibility and to care for others. Displays of Children's work proclaim the Christian Foundation of the school with a strong sense of values. Activities such as the Cultural Week help pupils to focus and learn about people from other cultural and faith backgrounds. Links with South Africa, through the

Church also support this.

Excellent opportunities are provided across the curriculum for spiritual development which support raising attainment such as the “Big Writing” strategy observed providing opportunities to develop literacy skills through reflection and music. There is a passion for nature and creation led by the Headteacher, giving pupils a real sense of awe and wonder with them actively learning about and sharing responsibility for the stewardship of the environment in the sight of God. Children are fully involved in the planning and evaluation of an extensive range of projects such as the Sensory Garden and the recent powerful wire sculpture created with the Artist in Residence. A child said, “ We all made it and I didn’t think my bit would be so good!”

Children are well behaved and polite and speak with pride and appreciation of their church school. They feel safe and know whom they should to turn to if they need help and are confident that they will be listened to. They understand about healthy lifestyles. The school behaviour policy supports the ethos of the school with a rewards system, which is enthusiastically supported by pupils who want to do their best to please. Children have a clear understanding of the consequences of poor behaviour and believe that they are treated fairly.

Areas for Development

- Ensure that the Distinctive Christian and Anglican Foundation of the school are further strengthened in all documentation, particularly in the Mission Statement.
- Strengthen the use of visual Christian signs and symbols in key areas such as the reception area.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The impact of Collective Worship on learners is good. The school has accurately evaluated what it does well and what needs to improve. Clear feedback has been gained from questionnaires with action being put in place to take views into account. Parents appreciate opportunities provided to be part of the worshiping life of the school. A parent said, “I am blown away by the quality of worship”. Children and parents reported that they place high value on the songs sung to support worship. They confirm the consistent quality of worship and that it helps them to develop their relationship with God.

Effective opportunities are provided for pupils to reflect with a rich range of resources used including excellent use of music, photographs and drama. Children show a good level of engagement; they enter and leave the hall quietly. A two-year rolling programme of themes has been developed and the Worship Co-ordinator, supported by the Vicar, keeps this under review. Key Christian Festivals are celebrated and opportunities for prayer offered in the course of the day. All classrooms have a special place with artefacts, pictures and resources to encourage spiritual reflection and social responsibility.

Areas for Development

- Develop detailed planning for Worship.
- Complete the actions concerning Worship identified in the School Development Plan.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Religious Education has been a priority in the School Development Plan over the past two years. Development of children's spirituality across the curriculum is a current focus and much evidence is in place to show that this is strength of the school to which the teaching of Religious Education makes a good contribution. The School follows the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus and all pupils are provided with a range of opportunities to learn about and respect other faiths and cultures. Good quality resources are used with appropriate emphasis given to the development of social and moral education, the evidence of which can be seen in many small examples around the school with children demonstrating a strong sense of right and wrong.

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

The leadership and management of the school is good. The Headteacher provides a role model of Christian leadership and is regarded highly by staff, pupils and parents who appreciate her passion and concern to ensure children are well prepared for life through providing a rounded and balanced curriculum. She is well supported through the leadership of the RE and Worship Co-ordinator.

School self evaluation has been undertaken to provide a clear view of what is done well as a Church School and what needs to improve. This includes action to be taken to raise standards of progress and attainment for all pupils. Governors are supportive of the school and accept the need to raise standards. Staff are recruited who are able to actively foster the school's Christian ethos with integrity. They work as a strong team and support each other well. The views of stakeholders are valued and where issues for improvement are identified, plans are put in place. Parents appreciate the response to day-to-day problems and concerns and the prompt action taken to resolve them.

Church School Links are excellent and the Vicar and his team support the school very well. This provides a strong Christian role model. Parents report how much they appreciate the sense of community within the school and value the wider church, school and village community.

Areas for Development

- Keep self-evaluation under review, ensuring that all stakeholders are involved in the process and embed the actions taken as a result.
- Ensure Governors support the school by holding it to account and strengthen the role of foundation governors in this process.

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