

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Grade-Ruan Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Ruan Minor
Helston
Cornwall
TR12 7JN

Diocese:**Truro**

Local authority:

Cornwall

Date of inspection:

28 November 2006

Dates of last inspection:

30,31 October 2001

School's unique reference number:

111989

Headteacher:

Miss Sandra Easterbrook

Inspector's name and number:

Mrs. Rosemary Davis 185

School context

This Victorian built primary school is situated in the comparatively isolated village of Ruan Minor next to the Parish Church. The 74 pupils on roll attend from the village, the surrounding rural area and Helston. The school was extended in 2005 to include a Hall and the two external classrooms are to be refurbished. The adjacent village recreation ground is used as a school field. The school has recently been restructured from four classes to three. The Headteacher took up post 2½ years ago.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Grade- Ruan as a Church of England school are good

The school ethos reflects its Christian foundation and provides a positive learning environment for spiritual and moral growth. The Headteacher leads the school with vision and drive and is supported by staff and governors who all work together as a team. The happy family atmosphere provides a safe and secure environment for pupils to reach their Christian potential.

Established strengths

- Concern, respect and pastoral care by staff in which pupils are nurtured and valued as individuals
- Well behaved, polite and confident pupils who show independence of thought and spirit
- Good links with the Vicar, Parish Church and Diocese
- Clear vision and high expectations of the Headteacher

Focus for development

- Develop a co-ordinated system for planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating all worship to provide continuity, breadth and balance
- Promote the Christian ethos of the school with signs and symbols
- Develop the school site to provide areas of reflection

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

Christian values of care and concern for others are upheld throughout the school and are evident in classroom practice and in the playground. The atmosphere around the school is relaxed and orderly and pupils' behaviour is excellent. Pupils are valued as individuals and are happy, secure and confident. Inter-school relationships are excellent and staff provide good role models. The School Council plays a significant role in decision making encouraging pupils' independence and ownership. Reflection, stillness and thoughtful prayers permeate the day: this with outstanding pertinent displays along with music and art clubs contribute

significantly to pupils' spirituality. Collective worship supports moral development and all pupils are aware of right from wrong. RE teaching gives a good understanding of world faiths and helps develop the pupils' understanding of cultural differences. Visits regularly undertaken to Brittany have also broadened the pupils' cultural experiences. Many charities are supported and give pupils an understanding of care and concern for others. Links with the Parish Church and visits to the local chapel and churches enhance the school's Christian character. Pupils enthused about a recent visit to the Cathedral in Truro. The Diocese provides good support to further develop the school's Christian character. Parents feel that the school has a quality that is distinctly Christian, providing learners with a strong sense of identity, a caring ethos, appropriate responsibilities and a well rounded education. They appreciate their children's understanding of Christian values that are evident in the care and concern shown for others with different attitudes and views.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Acts of worship are clearly inclusive, occupying an important place in the life of the school and have a good impact on pupils' spiritual and moral development. Worship takes place in a well-organised and peaceful environment: presentations stimulate positive responses from the pupils. Planning of worship is thoughtful and varied enabling pupils to receive a broad experience of Christianity. The Vicar and staff lead worship each week: a wide range of local people frequently are invited to participate in collective worship which broadens the pupils' experiences. Class assemblies enable pupils to engage in appropriate worship. Monthly church services and the celebration of major Christian festivals, to which parents are invited emphasise Anglican traditions. Parents appreciate being able to attend Christian festivals in church and are keen to be more involved. Pupils responded enthusiastically to an excellent observed assembly during which they sang with vigour, played instruments, acted out a Bible story and answered thought provoking questions. The pupils are familiar with prayers including the Lord's prayer and they demonstrate a reflective attitude to worship.

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

The Headteacher is a strong, effective leader who together with the staff and governors are developing the distinctive Christian character of the school. Teachers and support staff feel highly valued and, together with well-informed governors, foster an integrated culture of teamwork. The Ethos and Mission statements acknowledge the school's Church of England foundation and are in line with Diocesan guidelines. There are good links with the Vicar, Parish Church and local community that enhance pastoral care, family values and community spirit. Standards in Religious Education are very good but assessment has not yet been fully developed. The Headteacher and staff are readily accessible: parents appreciate the 'open door' policy, regular consultations and school communications. Parents feel that the school has a special quality that enables learners of all backgrounds to flourish as individuals.