

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Grafton Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School

East Grafton
Marlborough
Wilts
SN8 3DB

Diocese: Salisbury

Local authority: Wiltshire
Dates of inspection: 19th December 2006
Date of last inspection: 28th January 2002
School's unique reference number: 126326
Headteacher: Mrs Jill Parr
Inspector's name and number: Estelle Smith

School context

Grafton Church of England Primary School is a very small rural school, although its numbers have increased significantly in the last two year. The children come mainly from the village and surrounding areas; a significant number from outside of the catchment area. The Headteacher was appointed in 2004 and the governing body is fairly new. There is a high proportion of children with learning difficulties and no children come from ethnic minority groups.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Grafton Primary School as a Church of England school is good

Grafton Primary School is a good school where Christian values and concern for children's well being is rooted in their daily life. The children are encouraged to care for one another as well as being mindful of the needs of those in the community and the wider world.

Established strengths

- The quality of care extended by staff, Governors and pupils.
- Links with the community and the wider world
- The good personal, social and moral development of the children.
- The teamwork which has been established by the Headteacher

Focus for development

- To further develop the multi cultural and spiritual education of the children
- To further enhance the quality of collective worship by extending the range of learning opportunities and involvement of the children

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

The school is judged to be good at meeting the needs of its pupils through its Christian character. The children feel safe and enjoy school, believing that this is because the staff know everyone well and always have time to listen to them. Christian values are explicitly mentioned in the Mission Statement and these are clearly reinforced in the day to day running of the school. Very good relationships based on the values of love, trust, respect and forgiveness are a high priority throughout the school and everyone feels valued. The children are proud of their school and feel that they have interesting lessons and are well supported by their teachers and teaching assistants. They very much enjoy the family atmosphere which encourages everyone looking after each other. The children and staff place importance on regular times for prayer and reflection, particularly in Keystage 1. The school has strategies in place to deal positively with issues, such as behavioural difficulties, through a

card system and discussion during circle time. The children comment favourably upon the work of the school council and noted how they had actively affected school improvement. They are proud of the fact that they have improved the quality of playtimes by earning the money to spend on playground toys. They are currently engaged in thinking of the needs of the wider world by fund raising to buy a yak for the children in Nepal. The school agrees that there is a need to develop the opportunities for the children's spiritual and multicultural education. The children are aware of what it means to follow a healthy lifestyle and are encouraged to eat sensibly and keep fit through a range of sporting activities such as "wake and shake". The school environment has been improved during the past two years and is bright and welcoming giving support to the broad curriculum which is offered to the children. A range of extra curricular activities catering for the range of interests and abilities is also offered.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

Collective Worship is recognised as being important in the life of the school. It is distinctly Christian and follows the themes suggested in the Values for Life pack. The children have recently been surveyed for their views on the school's provision for Worship. There is a general feeling that they would like more involvement in the proceedings. The school have agreed to incorporate this in to their planning. The children clearly enjoy singing and expressed a wish to learn more songs. They were able to recount the events in some acts of worship but seemed a little unclear as to how worship in a Church School is important. The celebration of the Church festivals gives the children insight into the Church's calendar and an understanding of the key Christian teachings. Links with the local Church are developing and the vicar visits the school each week to explore a themed message with the children. It is generally felt that more contact with the church and clergy would be beneficial. The children are able to join in with a range of prayers and responses, including the Lord's Prayer. Parents regularly support Church services and celebration assemblies. Foundation governors attend worship but do not evaluate its impact on the life of the school.

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

The Headteacher and governors promote the school's Christian values and this is evident in the Mission Statement, policy documents and symbols displayed in the school. The foundation governors are involved in monitoring and evaluating the provision for developing the Christian vision and offer encouragement and challenge to the Headteacher in promoting the Trust Deed. This is linked with the School Development Plan and fully involves the staff and children. The foundation governors provide a good link with the Church and particularly with the Sunday school which is held on the premises and is well attended. Governors and staff work together to support the school's evaluation process. There are developing links between the school and the Church but the staff and governors would like to see more involvement of the Churches in the area. Parents speak positively about the school and the way in which the school seeks their views. They feel that their children are well supported and offered a good education in a safe and secure environment where they are encouraged to flourish.