

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Holy Trinity Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Great Cheverell
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN105XZ

Diocese: Salisbury

Local authority: Wiltshire
Dates of inspection: 1st April 2008
Date of last inspection: 2004
School's unique reference number: 126441
Headteacher: Mrs. Mercedes Henning
Inspector's name and number: Fiona. E. Brown 301

School context

Holy Trinity Primary School has 133 pupils on roll. Pupils come from the village, surrounding area and out of catchment. There are a few army families. The majority of pupils are of white British heritage. The percentage of pupils with SEN is less than average. The school has Healthy School Award and Activemark.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Holy Trinity Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding

Holy Trinity is an outstanding Church school with Christian values underpinning every aspect and dimension in the life of the school. The school ethos and emphasis on personal development creates a happy caring atmosphere in which all children can achieve their best. The children and staff have an exceptional degree of awareness and respect for each other.

Established strengths

- An outstanding ethos where Christian values are embraced by the whole school community
- Pupils are very positive about the role of worship and RE and are confident to express their beliefs and feelings
- The Headteacher, supported by effective governors, provides inspiration for the school community

Focus for development

- To continue work developing assessment in RE
- To continue to extend the pupil participation in Collective Worship
- To continue to develop opportunities for Spiritual Development in all curriculum areas

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

Holy Trinity is outstanding in presenting a distinctive Christian character and is very effective in promoting the development of all pupils' personal qualities and achievements. Learners flourish as individuals because they feel valued and special. Parents speak with appreciation of the care and support given to the children based on Christian traditions and beliefs. Behaviour is good and the school is totally committed to providing equal opportunity for all. The excellent relationships within the school community are evidence of strong partnerships that exist between pupils', staff, the local church and the wider community. The interactive display regularly arranged by a foundation governor and the whole school environment including the outside area, give opportunities for the development of spirituality. A wide range of extra-curricula activities including a Christian club and residential visit enhance the learning

for all pupils.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is of central importance to the life of the school and all involved are very positive about the experience. It is effectively planned and evaluated involving pupils, staff and clergy. There is a good range of themes including all major events in the Christian Calendar. Appropriate use is made of the local church with visits including major festivals and the Leavers' Service. Visits are also made to Salisbury Cathedral which are really appreciated by all. An annual Eucharist takes place. Pupils enjoy participating in worship and have expressed the desire for more. They understand the significance of the candles and other symbols in worship and around the school. They enjoy singing especially African songs and appreciate time to reflect, meditate and pray. School Council said worship was 'a time to think if you are confused', 'a time to understand more of what it is to be a Christian', 'a chance to understand how others feel especially those who have different beliefs and that they are accepted'. A celebration assembly took place to honour a Teacher Assistant who was leaving to move to a new area after having over 20 years association with the school. All members of the community including past pupils and staff joined in a time of praise and thanksgiving. All appreciated different emotions including sadness but there was a real understanding that this lady was on the next step of her journey in life.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Religious Education is given a very high priority in the life of the school. Pupils speak warmly of the enjoyment of the subject and are eager to share their knowledge and opinions. This was clearly demonstrated in an RE lesson where the pupils were engaged using evidence from the Bible to try to understand the betrayal of Judas. The excellent questioning by the teacher observed led to a deep and lively debate. Pupils were able to form their own opinions on whether Judas was good or bad. One pupil said 'Judas was not bad but he had to betray to fulfil the Scripture'. It was moving to see pupils suddenly understanding that maybe there was a plan. Effective links are made across the curriculum. Multicultural weeks held each year are very successful in extending pupils' learning and appreciation of other cultures. The spiritual and moral development of all pupils is developed in all curriculum areas especially in RE, Science and Collective Worship and throughout the life of the school. Pupils have a very good understanding of the Christian faith and the Anglican tradition. The class looking at the colours in the Church Calendar had very interesting opinions on the colours. 'Green reminds me of Brussel Sprouts and I don't like Brussel Sprouts'. However they were appreciating significance of the meaning of the colours. RE receives the appropriate curriculum time, is well resourced, given appropriate Inset and is effectively managed. The subject appears regularly on the SDP and Staff and Governors' Agendas.

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

Holy Trinity School benefits from outstanding leadership and management. There is a distinct Christian vision for the school shared and agreed with all stakeholders. The Headteacher and Foundation Governors are very active in promoting the vision evident in the life of the school. The school has been well supported by the Diocese. During inspection week the school was notified that they had won the competition for the 'Ecostars Award' in the Diocese. There is a clear and strategic view about church school improvement based on rigorous self-evaluation and effective consultation and monitoring. Governors have a good knowledge of the school and are regular visitors. Based on the belief 'It takes a whole village to raise a child' the community are increasingly involved in partnership with this school. Staff, pupils and the community know that each is valued. One pupil said that 'the most special thing about our school is the people'. Pupils feel safe and happy and 'enjoy how the teachers present and teach everything'. 'Even if you give a silly answer to a question the teacher makes you feel comfortable' This school is not complacent in its' success but is continually moving forward.