

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Hindon Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

School Lane,  
Hindon,  
Wiltshire,  
SP3 6EA

**Diocese:** Salisbury

LEA: Wiltshire

Dates of Inspection: 13/09/07

Date of last inspection: April 2002

School's URN: 126444

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Colman

Inspector (National Society Number): Mrs Marian Fulkes (18)

### **School Context**

Hindon VA school is a small primary serving local villages. It is arranged in two classes - one for each key stage, and has an independent Nursery adjoining it. Recently changing from a first school to a primary, key stage two has now become established.

### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Hindon as a Church of England school are good**

Hindon VA is a good church school, providing sound education with the Christian ethos pervading all aspects of school life.

### **Established strengths**

- Children feel valued and enjoy their learning.
- Links with the Church are very good.
- Staff and Governors are supportive of each other.

### **Focus for development**

- Teachers to extend the learning in RE, both Christian and other religions, with the children who are at the top of each key stage.
- The children to have more opportunities to contribute prayers, having had practise in writing them.

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

Hindon School is good at meeting the needs of the learners. Each child is valued and given work appropriate to their age and ability. A wide range of after school clubs and out of school visits provide the children with experiences otherwise unavailable to them. The ethos is welcoming and caring; the older children look after the younger ones and relationships are good. School and parents work collaboratively to ensure behaviour and learning is good. As a result, both are evidenced as such. Parents are especially involved when problems occur in learning or behaviour. Display boards are well presented and demonstrate the Christian ethos of the school. Care is taken to

provide a healthy lifestyle and most children enjoy the lunches using fresh vegetables from their own garden.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**

Collective worship is an important part of the day, and its impact is good. Following discussion with School Council last year, changes have been made in its setting and format. This has improved the impact. The Rev Sue Symons and a Lay Reader, also a Governor, regularly lead worship. A retired Colonel, in uniform, leads the Remembrance Day worship. Extended themes include consideration of world affairs such as Sudan and Fair Trade. There are termly visits to Church for the major festivals and a school Eucharist is under consideration. The candle lit Nativity play, in church, is always a major event. The head teacher and the incumbent are working to improve the spirituality of worship.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is satisfactory**

The religious education is satisfactory with some good elements. The school follows the Wiltshire syllabus and has recently updated resources which promote values for life. In the lessons observed the children understood the concepts and meanings of the lessons, and most were able to respond to questions. There was time for the children reflect on the lesson before beginning the activity required, and to consider what had been learnt in the plenary.

In both key stages, the oldest children would benefit from higher expectation of achievement. Moral issues are given extra time in RE and circle time to support families with difficulties. Children are encouraged to develop their own viewpoints. Although the children are all white British, the staff stress the awareness of other faiths and ethnic groups as an important part of the children's education.

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

The leadership and management is good. All the staff are confident about their part in sharing school's on-going vision. Parents speak positively about their views being valued, and the school has productive and supportive links with the church community.

The governing body is very involved in all aspects of the running of the school. The Incumbent and the Lay Reader are involved with the planning of the collective worship. Governors regularly listen to children read and help in the classrooms. Governor training has been arranged by the Chair of Governors, and the Vice Chair attends the meetings for new parents and induction. They nurture the Christian mission. Reports on the school go to the PCC and there are entries in the village magazine.

The School council is being reinstated; regular meetings to discuss specific suggestions would enhance the children's attitudes towards responsibility and accountability.

The Head Teacher recently has been given extra time to monitor and assess the work in the school, and improvements are already noted. Some delegation and sharing of responsibilities would ease the burden.