

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Holy Trinity Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Jersey Street,
Cheltenham
GL52 2JP

Diocese: Gloucester

Local authority: Gloucestershire
Dates of inspection: 31st January 2008
Date of last inspection: 19th September 2003
School's URN: 115666
Headteacher: Mr A Cheadle
Inspector: Mr C Westall, NS 325

School context

Holy Trinity Church of England Primary is a Voluntary Controlled Primary School situated in the centre of Cheltenham. There are presently 182 pupils on roll, ranging from 4 to 11 years of age. The majority of children are from white British backgrounds. The school draws children from a wide area across Cheltenham.

Summary Judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Holy Trinity Primary School as a Church school is good.

Christian values underpin all aspects of life at Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School. The school's clear vision and Christian ethos has a very positive impact upon all areas of school life.

Established strengths

- The outstanding Christian ethos of the school in which all pupils are valued and nurtured.
- Confident, polite and well motivated pupils.
- The opportunities given to children, during collective worship, to express their musical achievements.
- The strong and supportive links with the parish church.

Focus for development

- Foundation Governors to further develop the school's procedures for self evaluation, in order to check the school's effectiveness as a Church School.
- To further involve children in the planning and leading of collective worship.
- To use the newly established approach of seeking pupils views, to help the school in reviewing the format and content of collective worship.

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

The Christian ethos at Holy Trinity Primary School is very strong and is based upon clear school aims. The aims reflect the school's original trust deed. The happy and purposeful atmosphere enables children to flourish as individuals. The magnificent achievements made by so many of the children in music and art emphasise the high priority the school places upon successfully developing the 'whole child'. Behaviour of the children is very

good. This is aided by the clear system of rewards and sanctions that have been developed within the school. The staff at Holy Trinity Primary School provide excellent role models. Relationships between staff and pupils are strong. Children are courteous and considerate to each other and adults in the school. A variety of school initiatives have helped to build this positive environment, including training pupils to become peer mediators and the work of a teaching assistant responsible for pastoral support. Pupils are confident in the fact that staff listen and understand when concerns are raised. The role of the School Council underpins this very positive culture. The councillors feel that through their actions they have made improvements to the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship plays a very important part in the life of Holy Trinity Primary school. Pupils are particularly positive about the opportunities they are given to participate through saying prayers and playing their musical instrument as part of the school orchestra. Children's singing during collective worship is of a very good standard. The collective worship programme is well planned and based upon shared Christian values. Opportunities for children to organise and lead worship are limited. The local church effectively supports the collective worship programme through the church's 'Children's Pastor', leading weekly worship and the school celebrating special occasions, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter, in the church. These services are very popular with the whole school community.

Religious education lessons support collective worship by making effective links with the Christian values being focused upon each month.

The school's evaluation of the impact of worship upon the pupils is at an early stage of development. Older children, for example have started to record their comments following whole school worship. The school has not yet fully analysed these comments so that collective worship provision can be reviewed.

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

The school's leadership team lead the school very effectively, and there are high standards of achievement and care. The school's Christian foundation is explicit in key documentation, such as the school prospectus. Parents believe that the distinctive Christian ethos has a positive impact on the pupils. They feel that the school is a very welcoming place due mainly to the open and friendly environment that the Headteacher and his staff have created. Parents' views are listened to and any improvements that are made are helpfully communicated through the weekly newsletter.

There are very good links with the local parish church. Members of the church community are very supportive of school events and projects. The church's 'Children's Pastor', runs a lunch time Bible club which pupils enjoy attending. Foundation governors also take an active interest in the life of the school and reports of their visits are effectively used to inform the rest of the school's governing body.

The school has a culture of self evaluation but this needs to be further developed, by the school leadership team and Foundation governors, in order to monitor Holy Trinity's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a church school.