

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Hutton All Saints' Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Claughton Way,
Hutton,
Brentwood,
Essex.
CM13 1JW

Diocese:	Chelmsford
Local authority:	Essex
Dates of inspection:	September 25 th 2009
Date of last inspection:	June 2006
School's unique reference number:	115258
Headteacher:	Mrs Linda Dean
Inspector's name and number;	Mrs Frances Neil (252)

School context

Hutton All Saints' is a one form entry primary school. The area the school serves is very mixed and recently the profile of the intake has changed with a growing number of pupils with EAL and SEN now in Key Stage 1 classes. The percentage of pupils entitled to free meals or with special educational needs is lower than average. The school is very well resourced and pupils achieve very well in national tests. The school environment is very attractive with a large number of play opportunities and activities provided for pupils and a wide variety of extra curricular clubs and activities are available to all pupils, even those in the early years.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Hutton All Saints' as a Church of England school are outstanding.

Hutton All Saints' has a well established Christian character which is supported and fostered by all members of the school community which is reflected in the Mission Statement. This is because of the deeply embedded Christian values and vision of the school that ensures every pupil is highly valued and seen and treated as a unique individual. The Christian ethos and purpose permeate the life of the school and the attitudes of staff. The school has a clear vision and sense of purpose about its role and has grown to provide a secure Christian foundation within the school and the community it serves.

Established strengths

- The welcoming, caring and inclusive atmosphere in which pupils feel secure, valued and happy and which is appreciated by parents and carers.
- The leadership of the Headteacher, the Governors and the Incumbent.
- The school enjoys the support of parents, carers and the parish and there are close links between the school and the local church
- The outstanding Christian ethos that provides a firm foundation for the school and all its members.

Focus for development

- To continue to support the pupils so they have the appropriate vocabulary to more fully and more clearly articulate their developing personal relationship with God through their experiences in collective worship.

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

The school has a very caring and supportive atmosphere of mutual respect. The commitment of the head teacher has created a strong sense of identity among staff and pupils. The headteacher, incumbent, RE (religious education) co-ordinator and other staff work hard together to ensure the school ethos is underpinned by the Christian values which are considered essential to the everyday work of the school. There is a very strong commitment to inclusivity and the celebration of diversity. The academic and personal achievements of all pupils are celebrated so a caring and exciting environment is created. Colourful and interesting displays celebrate the work of the pupils, illustrating and affirming their "belonging" to this large, caring family. For example the display in the entrance hall includes each member of the school community represented by a drawing by a pupil, interwoven with the words of the school

prayer. Staff members know pupils as individuals and have very high expectations of them and their personal and academic attainment. The behaviour of the pupils is outstanding and they treat each other and staff members with respect. The older pupils show respect and care for the younger pupils, supporting them in many ways and they see this as a delight and a privilege. Pupils are very well supported in order to achieve the high expectations of parents, staff and governors and this is deeply appreciated by parents and carers. Pupils develop confidence and maturity and the school's Christian character aids their personal and spiritual growth; they relate well to each other and to the adults around them, who, in turn, are excellent role models in this and other aspects of the school's life. Pupils are aware of right and wrong and are encouraged to lead healthy lifestyles. The school environment allows pupils to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally through structured learning, links with other schools, such as the Yr 6 play leadership scheme involving a local senior school, and the close links with the local church. The professional relationships between staff members are an outstanding feature of the school. There is mutual respect and support for each other. The displays of RE work, school rules and values, reinforce the distinctively Christian environment of the school but also celebrate the faith of other groups represented in the school cohort and the local community. There are opportunities for prayer that have become an integral part of the school's life and work. Parents are happy that the school promotes Christian values and they both appreciate and support the worshipping life of the school through attendance at church worship and special events. A growing number of families are become regular church worshippers as they and their children are supported within the school and through this they often become more involved in parish life.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.

The pupils enjoy opportunities for worship and the school gives a high priority to this which brings cohesiveness to the school community. The worship is well planned and delivered by staff, the curate and individual classes. The school actively shows its Christian belief here and there are very positive attitude towards worship. Evaluation by the pupils has been used to inform future planning. Pupils wished all staff, including support staff, to attend their weekly "church" assembly and this now happens. Pupils are pleased that their views have been appreciated and acted upon. Parents reported that the knowledge and developing faith of their children, shared openly at home, surprises and impresses them. Challenging questions are often asked of them by their children. The school encourages pupils to share their achievements with their peers in "sharing assemblies" which in turn helps them to grow in confidence and self-esteem. The school employs the term "Assembly" although the pupils were fully aware that they were joining in an act of worship. Pupils' attitudes to worship are outstanding This could be seen in the way that pupils listened attentively to the curate who led worship on the day of the inspection. They sang well, were eager to contribute and enjoyed the opportunity to do so and they participated respectfully in a sustained period of quiet reflection. The use of the local church, the regular presence of the incumbent and the curate in school and the use of Christian visitors to lead worship ensure that pupils are aware of Christian traditions and responses, know the Lord's Prayer and the shape of an Anglican Service. The Headteacher has used opportunities created by re-modelling the school building to create storage areas for equipment and so the hall space is now an uncluttered "sacred space" more fitted to its worshipful purpose. Modern technology is used to capture and stimulate the interest of pupils while meeting the needs of the wider range of learners in the school.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Standards in RE are outstanding. The pupils have positive views of religious education. They enjoy their lessons and are encouraged to think, discuss and debate with each other, challenging or supporting views and opinions. Questioning is used very effectively by teachers to encourage the development of thinking skills. Within lessons teachers model responses for the younger pupils and sensitively support them to express themselves and this is clearly very effective as, by Year 6, deeply profound thoughts are expressed by pupils, unselfconsciously. For example, when asked what might make a person beautiful a Yr6 pupil said "*beauty is not in a persons eyes but in their hearts and what they do.*" Teachers of a Year1/2 class planned and prepared for their RE lesson on Judaism by turning a pergola in the playground into a place to celebrate Sukkot, which was appropriate to the age of the pupils and allowed them to have an exciting first-hand experience, so enhancing their experience and enjoyment of the lesson. Teachers often team-teach to better share assessment opportunities. Work in books showed clearly how pupils had been introduced sensitively to other faiths and cultures and parents acknowledged the good work undertaken that enabled pupils to celebrate, respect and

understand the cultural and religious diversity in the school community, the parish and the world beyond. The revised Diocesan syllabus has been introduced and implemented and the teachers have skilfully amended it to knit closely with the school's very effective PSHE+C programme that also supports the personal development of the pupils.

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

This is because of the vision of the head teacher, the Incumbent and governing body who clearly articulate this to staff and parents. Pupils are very well supported into their senior schools and beyond, through the self-esteem, confidence and Christian values instilled in them through the work of the school. This is enhanced by the "Caring Certificates" presented to pupils nominated by their peers to recognise their contribution to the welfare of others. The headteacher and the governing body are fully committed to the school serving the needs of all its families and it is well placed to adapt to challenges and changes because of the deeply held Christian values which are central to the school. The practice, Mission Statement and documentation of the school all reflect these values. The head teacher and governors are able to share the vision of what makes the school effective and distinctively Christian with staff pupils and parents. Staff members have a great commitment to the school ethos and they are well supported by the headteacher, the governors and the excellent RE coordinator, who is herself ably supported by her assistant. All acknowledge and meet their responsibilities, not only in providing an effective RE curriculum but in caring so profoundly for the whole child and their families. The governors support and challenge the leadership team. The incumbent, the chair of governors and the curate are regular visitors and very positive contributors to the school's Christian purpose. The school visits the Church regularly and pupils look forward to and enjoy these visits, and are keen to take part. They speak enthusiastically about the opportunities they have when it is their turn to lead prayer, read or act out a scene from the Bible. The governing body and the headteacher actively foster links between the school and church, which, as a result are very good. The governing body contributed fully to the self evaluation form and the diocesan toolkit, and both documents are of high quality.

SIAS report September 2009 Hutton All Saints' CEVA Primary, Hutton, Essex CM13 1JW