

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Ivington Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School,

Leominster,  
Herefordshire  
HR6 0JH

#### Diocese: Hereford

LA : Herefordshire Council

Date of inspection: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006

Date of last inspection: March 2001

School's Unique reference number: 116894

Name of Head Teacher: Mrs. S Morgan

Inspector: Mr R Glasspoole

### School context

Ivington CE Primary School is situated in an attractive village near the town of Leominster, using the original buildings with recent extensions. At the time of the inspection there were 93 children on roll, virtually all from the essentially monocultural local area. The school has very good links with the local church and with the wider community. School self-evaluation is thorough and secure.

### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Ivington Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding

The school's outstanding Christian ethos is rooted in the Christian values that inform relationships within the school and with the local Christian community and is closely supported by the Religious Education and collective worship. Children are loved and happy, and their spiritual development is very effectively nurtured by a strong staff team with excellent support from Foundation Governors and the local church.

### Established strengths

- The school's outstanding Christian family ethos, supported by very good links with the local church
- The excellent staff team, very well led by the Head Teacher, all closely share the school's Christian values
- Excellent leadership and management that effectively promote the distinctive Christian character of the school
- Children's enjoyment of and active involvement in the daily life of the school.

### Focus for development

- The development of children's evaluation of collective worship
- An INSET opportunity for consideration of the nature of spiritual development.

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

"The school buzzes with Christian fellowship and joy" is one Foundation Governor's comment that epitomises the school's attitude to children's personal development in its fullest sense. Christian values are clearly evident in the daily life of the school, informing all that goes on, so that from the day they start school children are treated with respect within a happy, welcoming, secure and very attractive environment. Their individual needs and abilities are sensitively recognised, and they are well known to each other and to adults, so that the school community demonstrates a strong caring family ethos. The recent Ofsted report affirms the strength of the school's support for those with special needs. Relationships are excellent, marked by mutual trust and respect, and adults provide a positive role model for children, whose own relationships

are very good indeed. The hard work and commitment on the part of staff and Governors are recognised by parents, who speak of the “*strength of Christian values*”, “*the family feeling in the school*”, “*the way everyone cares for everyone else*”, “*the way the school is so friendly and approachable*”. Ongoing improvement of the school environment includes attractive display areas and effective use of outside space that promotes children’s social development and also provides opportunities for quiet reflection and an appreciation of Creation. Children’s response is very appreciative: “*Teachers are generous and helpful*”, “*I like school and the support of my friends*”, “*Everyone is always helpful*”, “*Teachers are our friends*”. This is all highly consistent with the school aim, expressed in the Vision Statement, “*to provide a caring, Christian ethos for the school, which inspires and excites a shared enthusiasm for life and learning.*”

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

The planning and leading of collective worship is excellent, and involves the whole school community and the local church. There is a strong family atmosphere and a very good balance between reflection and celebration. School documentation clearly and consistently promotes the importance of worship. Parents value collective worship and the links with the local church. Children’s personal involvement and response is encouraged very effectively so that they enjoy worship and frequently contribute spontaneously e.g. by making “Values” posters and writing prayers. Their attitude to worship is excellent with responses such as “Assemblies are very important to me”, “I love the singing and praising”, “I like learning about God”. There is a wide and appropriate range of themes and suitable variety of settings and age-groupings during the weekly cycle, for which all staff take responsibility. The active support by Foundation Governors is valued by staff and widens the impact of collective worship. Support by the clergy is very good, and gives practical affirmation of the school’s Anglican foundation. A school Eucharist every Easter is valued for the new insights it gives to the traditional Easter story. The church is used for special services and festivals, and staff and children regularly support Sunday Family Services. The Head Teacher attaches great importance to worship, taking a key role in planning and leading, and providing a high quality experience for children in both the setting and the content of collective worship.

**The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding.**

RE is held to be of vital importance by staff and Governors, and its role in promoting the values of a Christian school, is widely recognised by parents and children. This importance is also made clear in school documents and the logo. Planning is thorough, systematic and regularly reviewed, and excellent knowledge of children’s needs and abilities by staff ensures appropriate and sensitive teaching. Standards are very high, with children’s workbooks demonstrating both knowledge and understanding, aided by perceptive, supportive marking. Balance between learning *about* and learning *from* RE is excellent, and observed lessons were all outstanding in terms of staff subject knowledge, children’s learning progression in RE, and their participation, enjoyment and understanding. Children are given very effective opportunities to explore the subject widely and to question and to form their own opinions and beliefs. Their interest in and response to RE are very mature, showing depth of thought and spiritual awareness. Consistent support by Foundation Governors and the clergy underpin both the school’s provision and the positive outcomes for learners. Generous curriculum time and good resource provision enhance children’s experience. The co-ordinator attends regular INSET events and thoroughly disseminates information to staff. She values an earlier INSET based on spiritual development and following recent staff changes, a similar opportunity would be of benefit to the school.

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

The Head Teacher and Governors work very effectively to promote the school's distinctive Christian vision. They ensure that this vision is clearly and widely communicated, while recent closer involvement of Foundation Governors in the day to day life of the school, including collective worship and RE, strengthen further the school's leadership and management. The Head Teacher's personal Christian vision for the school underpins the excellent relationships within the school and supports the strong church and community links. School policies and documentation are consistent with the school ethos and with each other, and are developed in discussion with all members of the school community. Staff is fully involved with the Head Teacher and Governors in reviewing and putting planning into action. Staff, Foundation Governors and clergy are very much a team, and are widely recognised as such, sharing responsibility for planning and leading RE and Worship. Members of the local clergy team support the school well, informing planning and decision-making and deepening the positive Christian values that underpin the school's leadership and management.

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