

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Kingsclere Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Ash Grove,
Kingsclere,
Newbury,
Berks
RG15 8RE.

Diocese: Winchester

LA. Hampshire

Dates of inspection 27, 29, 30 November 2006

Date of last inspection 19 and 20 March 2001

School's Unique reference number 116295

Name of Headteacher Mr Duncan Wood (acting)

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number David Naylor 414

Preface

The OFSTED report dated 7 -8 November found standards in all areas to be good. The Deputy Headteacher is currently acting headteacher and maintaining this standard effectively pending a new appointment.

School Context

The school has 260 mostly White British pupils on roll. Its rural setting and well kept grounds provide very good facilities for outdoor activities and for the cultivation of responsible attitudes to the environment. The pupils come from a mix of social backgrounds with very few pupils in need of free school meals. A small number of pupils (mainly from Poland) require teaching of English as a second language.

Progress since the last inspection

The Section 23 Inspection took place on 19 and 20 March 2001. Since that time:-

- Opportunities to inform and influence pupils' awareness of our multi-cultural society and shrinking world are being taken both in the curriculum and in extra-curricular activities e.g. topic work on India, the Middle East past and present, residential courses at Venture International, support for charities and the sponsoring of a child. Pupils are also given the experience of other cultures through special days on music, food and art.
- The above developments have been supported by staff training and the purchase of resources.
- Discussions about the viability of a Eucharist in school are on-going with the Incumbent. The school is seeking ways of dealing with this and at the same time preserving its commitment to inclusiveness.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Kingsclere as a Church of England school are good

Kingsclere is a good Church school which caters well for all the needs of its pupils. All the stakeholders in the school have a firm commitment to its Christian foundation and to serving the whole community. The SEF and OFSTED report strongly support the judgement that the partnership between the Church, the school and the local community is outstanding. The Christian values of care for the individual, love, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation, care and responsibility for the creation is firmly rooted in the ethos of the school.

The school, through its distinctive Christian character is good in meeting the needs of all learners.

- Pupils feel valued and respected, they behave well and show positive attitudes to learning.
- Pupils experience a wide range of activities such as swimming, ecologically based activities in the grounds, a wide range of sports as well as a specially constructed place for them to talk and discuss.
- Extra curricular activities include residential courses and visits to places of interest including places of worship.
- Pupils are given opportunities to use their talents and to succeed. Cross country running and outdoor pursuits on residential courses provide them with the spiritual experience of testing their limits.
- Pupils enjoy many opportunities to visit the Church. Activities frequently include drama and music which reinforce the Christian story.
- Pupils' relationship with the incumbent are excellent and mutually beneficial.

The experience of worship provided by the school is good

- Pupils experience a sense of order and reverence in their collective worship
- Pupils experience a time of quiet reflection away from the normal run of school life
- Visitors are used to broaden and enrich pupils' moral and spiritual awareness.
- The weekly visits of the incumbent and visits by the Methodist minister means that their encounter with the church is constant and the quality of the relationship leads to a respect for and positive attitude towards the church.
- Visits to the church for the major festivals include Drama and music so that pupils experience the Christian story in a vivid way. At Easter they make their own version of the stations of the cross and take part in a service in the church with a high level of pupil participation.
- Collective worship is highlighted in the School Improvement Planning.

Areas for development.

- Themes for the term are planned with the involvement of the incumbent but, as the SEF indicates, there is a need for a named person as well as the Head teacher to lead more detailed planning of collective worship.
- Some resources are available but more are needed for both collective worship and RE.
- The policy statement on collective worship is good. Staff need further guidance on changing the atmosphere of the classroom for collective worship. The reference in the SEF to the provision of a 'sacred space' in the classroom will help this.
- Interaction with pupils is effectively used in collective worship. Wider opportunities to contribute could be made through the use of paired discussion (whispering) and the targeting of questions to particular age and ability ranges.
 - Stories are used in collective worship and pupils are able to recall and interpret them. Wider use of stories as the vehicle for evoking moral and spiritual responses could be used.
 - Monitoring of many aspects of school life is good. As the SEF indicates there is a need to listen to pupils' views of their experience of collective worship.

The leadership and management of the school as a Church school are good

- The acting Headteacher is leading the school competently. The SEF shows a willingness and confidence to be honest and self-critical.
- Commitment to the school as a Church school is pervasive and is well supported by all the stakeholders in the enterprise.
- Management of the school is well distributed and there is a strong emphasis on team work.
- Initiatives taken by the Friends of Kingsclere School further the Christian focus of the school and contribute significantly to the health and wellbeing of the whole community.

SIAS report November 2006 Kingsclere Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks RG15 8RE.