

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Kings Somborne Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Stockbridge

Hampshire

SO20 6PN

Diocese: Winchester

LEA: Hampshire

Dates of inspection: 15th January 2007

Date of last inspection: September 2002

School's Unique reference number: 116296

Name of Headteacher: Mr. N. Winning

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number: T. Bateman.

Preface

Kings Somborne Church of England school is a small school with 121 children. The Church is very near, offering a good resource with a caring and support clergy. The Christian ethos is a very important to the whole School and highly valued by most parents. The Head teacher has been in post about 10 years.

School Context

The School has been extended through a considerable building programme. It is situated on the busy country road from Romsey to Stockbridge. Most children come from within the village but some pupils come from outside.

Progress since the last inspection

Kings Somborne Church of England school has addressed the key issues contained in the last report and has made many significant improvements.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Kings Somborne as a Church of England school are outstanding

Focus for development

- To develop a more inspirational worship by incorporating and developing children's thoughts and ideas
- To further improve the school's environment with a more creative element for the children's spiritual growth and personal development
- To develop pupils understanding of a variety of forms within the Anglican tradition:

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

Kings Somborne Church of England school has a strong Christian ethos which values children as unique individuals. This permeates the school and its 'Every Child Matters' agenda. There is a genuine feeling that all pupils and staff care for one another and every child matters in the lives of every teacher. Relationships are outstanding and both pupils and parents enjoy and benefit from this strong emphasis on personal relationships. The needs of all the children are taken into account and children thrive in the knowledge that they feel secure and happy. Pupils are friendly, very well behaved, polite, and willing to discuss and question in a respectful manner. The children's spiritual development has been given a high priority and the spiritual areas in all classrooms reflect this and enhance the Christian ethos throughout the

school. Cultural development is evident around the school and the moral code of conduct is displayed and adhered to in every room. The Incumbent who is both supportive and caring is a regular visitor and a steady guide to all. All pupils interviewed recognised the sense of purpose and quality within the School's Christian ethos but foremost recognise it as a friendly, welcoming place. The school may like to further explore the children's ideas of a spiritual area within the school grounds for reflection and prayer.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship in the School is well planned by the Head teacher and the incumbent, lay readers and the Methodist minister who also support the school. The Incumbent and other visitors lead worship regularly; These occasions are enjoyed by most of the pupils. There is an ecumenical understanding to all worship; a sharing of beliefs and ideas, a respect for all faiths however a purpose for living out the Christian gospel message for all.

There are daily acts of worship and Grace before meals in which a range of resources are used. No pupils are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Worship in School is a focal point for the pupils' spiritual and moral experience which finds further expression in the delightful Christian displays found around the school. Worship offers a time for reflection: pupils sing, participate, learn prayers and generally become familiar with the major events and celebrations of the Christian Year.

Pupils like collective worship but would like to be more involved. Some pupils stated that they wanted more opportunities to share their Christian faith more within school by adopting a more creative and stimulating approach. They would like the opportunity to feed back their ideas and possibly participate in the leading of worship. Training for some members of the worship team may help to keep leaders more fully aware of exciting initiatives and activities. The School may also like to further explore ways of developing further liturgical links with the Anglican tradition.

Plans for the school to observe a regular Eucharist service are being developed with the incumbent.

The strong musical tradition in the school greatly aids worship and gives the children a wonderful purpose. The music is an outstanding source of spiritual development for all. The various sporting teams also contribute well to the life of the school, bringing their own recognition of achievements and devotion to a team ethos within the school.

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

The Head teacher and Governing Body have a clear vision for the School that is working out in practice, creating a caring, friendly place and developing into being a 'children's church' within the community where the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, academic and personal development of the pupils is also of great importance.

The Head Teacher is a strong leader and clearly articulates the Christian values and principles which underpin all that happens in School. This vision is impressive in its simplicity and its strength, 'Christian values permeate everything we do here. It is our guiding light, our focus, our joy'

The Head teacher can share this vision quietly and yet his actual words profoundly state that God is at the centre of everything that is done. The way he deals with all children, his gentle and calm approach is his great strength. All pupils hold him in high regard and say he is a very special man, a leader who cares for everyone, a person who 'leads us all in everything we do, our actions and our beliefs'. "Mr Winning is next to God really". The Headteacher, the Governing Body and all staff share the Headteacher's vision and are very much at hand to help and support each other. The Chair of Governors recognises the value of this outstanding leadership

and works hard, with the governing body, to maintain the school's positive atmosphere and to ensure all the other aspects of school life are in place. Every child's academic development is important to the school; however it is every child's ability to have high esteem, confidence and an understanding that God is there for all, that is really important. That is the essence of the Head teacher's vision and values which permeate this delightful school.

SIAS Report January 2007 Kings Somborne Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6PN