

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Leintwardine Endowed Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Watling Street
Leintwardine,
Craven Arms
Shropshire
SY7 OLL

Diocese: Hereford

LA: Herefordshire

Dates of inspection: 12 October 2006

Date of last inspection: 15 October 2002

School's Unique reference number: 116893

Name of Headteacher: Mrs E A Davies

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number: Mr J N Cornall

School context

The self evaluation process at Leintwardine Endowed Church School is outstanding. It gives a very clear picture of this attractive 4 class room village school's progress in RE and Worship. Since its last inspection The Head and Governors have made radical alterations to the buildings providing much needed space to accommodate both new technologies and play activities. The school is in a falling roles situation.

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

This is an outstanding church school. Its distinctly Christian vision is implicit in all areas of the school's life. The school team are energised by very effective and clear leadership.

Established strengths

- The Head is an inspirational leader who has moved the school forward rapidly since its last inspection.
- Care for children by all members of staff is outstanding.
- Collective worship is a powerful part of the life of the school.
- School and church communities show confidence in one another and work closely together.

Focus for development

- Continue to develop the school environment through cross curricula work especially in the areas of stewardship and recycling.
- Review the way activities in RE are recorded so that there is a clear but simple evidence base.
- Continue to celebrate the schools many memorable moments.

The school through its distinctive Christian character meets the needs of all its learners outstandingly well.

The impact of this shows in the way it really knows its place within the Anglican tradition and is evidenced in high standards of behaviour. Children feel valued and special and say they are happy with the systems in the school set up to help them. Learners appreciate the 'values' approach to worship underpinning their life in school. The weeks theme on co-operation was very evident, not just in worship, but

in the way children, staff and visitors support one another around the school. Conflict is rare, but speedily resolved. There is a spirit of deep care and fairness evident in the school and an atmosphere of happy endeavour. Recent questionnaires show a very high level of satisfaction with the school. The school environment is attractive and new projects are enhancing the quality of experiences in the school grounds. Accommodation and resources, including displays, have an outstanding effect on the quality of spiritual reflection, prayer and worship.

The impact of Collective Worship on the school is outstanding

Worship is an exciting and central part of the school day for pupils. The hall is beautifully set out in advance with subdued lighting, calming music and reflective symbols. Acts of Worship can have many moods, laughter and joy, warm and lively singing and then complete silence for reflection. All staff choose to join in on some occasions and are actively involved in the worship. Prayer is routine and happens daily in the classroom before lunch and at home time. Children and staff lead prayer in the classroom and a wide group of staff are involved in leading Acts of Worship. The quality of singing and the width of material used in worship is outstanding. Living the churches year is implicit in the life of the school. The incumbent is a regular and gifted team member in the schools worship. Learners talk confidently about the church year. They know and recognise a variety of Christian prayers. There are excellent links with the local parish church. The school is very sensitive to the needs of those of other faiths and none.

The effectiveness of the Religious education is good.

Difficult parts of the Herefordshire Syllabus dealing with other religions are taught well. Behaviour and attitudes to learning are very good. Learners have a very good understanding of the Christian faith which has a high focus in the school. Evidence of this is to be seen in class books showing wedding teaching, a Divali party and books of prayers in KS1. Much RE is taught through discussions, in circle time and through the schools strong commitment to church festivals. Drama, discussion and the writing of prayers are important. The subject is well resourced and staffed. Teachers make good use of visual aids and ICT with the Internet providing a wealth of material. Much RE teaching is linked to world issues. The school supports the Diocesan Tanzanian project strongly as well as many other charities. RE thus contributes strongly to the spiritual and moral development of all learners.

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

The Head is co-ordinator for RE and Collective Worship and leads all Christian aspects of the school with commitment, vision and enthusiasm. She is well supported by staff, clergy and the wider church community. Parents are happy with the Christian emphasis in the school. The Head and Governing body have a strong mutual vision for the schools role as a church school. Virtually all staff feel confident and comfortable with this vision and are happy to share in its development. Since her appointment the Head has brought about a significant improvement in the quality of RE and Collective Worship. In some areas her deep commitment to Christian values has led to highly innovative forms of worship and teaching. Children feel nurtured and strengthened by the happy, positive but firmly grounded ethos of the school.