

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Llangrove Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Llangrove,
Ross-on-Wye,
Herefordshire
HR9 6EZ

Diocese: Hereford

Local authority: Herefordshire
Dates of inspection: 25 January 2007
Date of last inspection: 21 and 25 May 2001
School's unique reference number: 116896
Headteacher: Mr Andrew Best
Inspector's name and number: John Chapman NS006

School context

Llangrove School, with 75 pupils in 4 classes, serves a large rural catchment and is housed in attractively refurbished and extended buildings. The school has had to cope with illness in its senior management over a period of time and was given a "Notice to Improve" following its recent Ofsted inspection.

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

Llangrove is an effective church school with many strengths. It has a very clear Christian ethos which underpins all the school does. Leadership is good and pupils enjoy, value and make best use of their opportunities. There are good opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. The school's own self evaluation is secure and it knows it can make further progress.

Established strengths

- Pupils very good personal development giving them firm foundations for life
- Strong trustful relationships between staff, parents, governors and pupils fostered by a clear Christian ethos and vision
- Excellent displays in classrooms and public areas which contribute a stimulating learning environment

Focus for development

- Staff and governors should see self-evaluation as an ongoing process and consider how to make best use of the National Society SE Toolkit
- The targets in the School Improvement Plan with regard to monitoring the effectiveness of RE and implementing the Agreed Syllabus should continue to be worked on
- The prospectus should give greater clarity to the parts played in school life by RE and Collective Worship

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

The school, with its overt emphasis on the primacy of Christian values, makes excellent provision for all pupils. All learners feel valued and in turn value others. Every child knows he or she matters here and those with special needs are particularly well catered for. The strong ethos statement, which begins the excellent prospectus, and is clearly displayed in the foyer, permeates the whole of school life. Staff, pupils, parents and governors can all articulate the Christian vision and in their different ways contribute to its achievement. The school provides many and varied opportunities to

enable learners to develop qualities needed for their spiritual, moral, social and cultural growth. The school, with its outstanding Christian displays, in both public areas and classrooms, provides a stimulating educational environment. Prayer, worship and Religious Education have important places in the school's daily life and all are highly valued by pupils. All pupils know the significance of the cross on the school badge. Daily conduct is based on consideration and respect for both self and others and the new behaviour policy includes an emphasis on forgiveness. In Values Education positive links are made with Christian values. Prayer at several points of the day underpins school life. Llangrove is a Christian community and owes much to the collective understanding of this by all who work at the school. The pupils through the emerging school council are also involved in transmitting the school's Christian values. Parents believe their children are well cared for, well taught and have satisfactory achievement in this well-ordered though still lively environment.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The claim that worship is central to the life of the school is well attested. Pupils welcome the prayers at the start and end of the day, and at lunchtime, as well as the main act of collective worship in mid-morning. They often talk with each other about the worship as well as at home. Worship is respectful with pupils participating fully. Regular contributions from the incumbent and other visitors are welcomed ("unless they go on into break"!). There are recognisable elements of Anglicanism in worship and termly visits to the local church though the emphasis is primarily Christian. Parents are invited on Fridays when achievements are celebrated in the context of worship. In the main hall Christian symbols are kept at all times and there is also a pupils' prayer wall which they value. Much use is made of the Lord's Prayer both for teaching and worship whilst displays demonstrate the value of the Bible. Collective worship takes place also in the classroom when values are explored prayerfully often at the end of a session. All in the school share in and value worship hence its centrality. "Worship creates peace for me and I can learn about God" said one pupil.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Religious Education is taught effectively and valued by pupils and staff. RE lessons are carefully prepared, attractively taught with clear aims and appropriate means of assessment. Pupil participation and enthusiasm is good and the work is skilfully differentiated. The RE displays are generally outstanding. Children talk easily about God and His part in their lives and show good spiritual understanding for their age. There is an emphasis on imaginative and reflective teaching, though some work is done in exercise books and marked traditionally. Parents are given a regular overview of the work done. RE features in the School Improvement Plan for 2006/7: some of the targets have been met already though there is scope for further development of the teaching and monitoring of RE across the school and embedding the new Agreed Syllabus. Teaching of Christianity is paramount but adequate attention is paid to other world faiths. Pupils value RE lessons and demonstrate considerable learning and understanding. "I am learning how to be a Christian" one said: and some pupils feel motivated by the teaching and worship to attend their own churches.

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

That the effectiveness is good is a tribute to staff and governors during an unsettled period of illness of successive heads. The Head appointed from September 2006 has brought clear Christian vision and purposeful drive which, together with a number of new initiatives, are contributing to the successful achievement of the school's aims and objectives. Strengths include committed Assistant Heads, a fully supportive staff of both teachers and non-teachers, a concerned and active governing body, supportive parents and pupils who have reacted impressively to difficulties. Ofsted inspectors have identified some weaknesses in teaching and these are being vigorously addressed. Pupils and governors share in the running of the school with staff. Parents feel that

coming to the school is like joining a family and find communication with the school is easy and that they can contribute their views at any time and not just in more formal ways. Governors are working hard to increase their own effectiveness, attend training, and take responsibility for the school's Christian ethos. The school operates a number of after school sessions including a Christian based activity one day a week run in conjunction with the local church. The local church finds pastoral and tangible ways to support the school. Pupils have links with the wider world and are concerned with both fund raising and environmental issues. (They also appear to have adopted an ape!) A sense of calm, good order and purposeful activity pervade the school which argues for effective leadership and management.

SIAS report January 2007: Llangrove School, Herefordshire HR9 6EZ