

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Longfleet Church of England Voluntary Controlled Combined School

Joliffe Avenue  
Poole  
Dorset  
BH15 2HF

#### Diocese: Salisbury

Local authority: Poole  
Dates of inspection: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007  
Date of last inspection: 2001  
School's unique reference number: 113782  
Headteacher: Miss M. Benjamin  
Inspector's name and number: John Horrell No: 250

#### School context

Longfleet Church of England Combined School was established in 1839 and moved to new buildings in 1998. It is larger than average with 478 pupils on roll serving an area of mixed owner occupied and local authority housing. Almost all pupils are of White British origin and nearly all speak English as their first language. The school has an average proportion of pupils with special needs.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Longfleet Combined as a Church of England school are good

A tangible and Christian based ethos makes a significant contribution to positive values and attitudes to teaching and learning. Consequently standards are high across all aspects of the curriculum. Pupils' personal development and well being is greatly enhanced by an effective delivery of the Christian principles that are at the heart of the vision statement. These are lived out in practice by the school community.

#### Established strengths

- The strong Christian ethos of the school in which all pupils are nurtured and valued highly
- Good links with the local church and community
- High quality acts of worship involving pupils, staff, members of the local churches which make a significant contribution to pupils SMSC
- RE making a good contribution to pupils' all round development
- Good standards of achievement

#### Focus for development

- Further develop the Evaluation of Worship to involve governors.
- Re strengthening pastoral support for staff.
- Review of links with church - raising profile of foundation governors.

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

Pupils' feel safe and happy at school and appreciative of the school's Church status. They talk enthusiastically about the atmosphere and how much they enjoy school. They receive a high standard of care, guidance and support from a dedicated team of teachers and support staff. The Christian ethos in the school is very strong and permeates every aspect of the school's life from documentation and displays through to classroom practice. St Mary's church provides good support through its foundation governors and regular contributions to acts of worship. These offer opportunities for reflection and concern for individual needs. Hindu and Muslim pupils happily attend acts of worship and RE because the parents identify

with the values being taught. The atmosphere around the school is relaxed and very orderly. Parents are very positive about the school and its family orientated approach. The level of pastoral care for the pupils is a strength and good support is given to those with special needs.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**

Worship has a good impact on pupils' spiritual development and is central to school life. Pupils' talk enthusiastically about all aspects of worship and are particularly keen on those delivered by visitors. A termly programme is agreed by the head teacher and representatives from St Mary's Church. Themes incorporate the Anglican festivals which are celebrated both in school and in church. This is effective because the pupils and parents comment on how much they enjoy them. The head teacher evaluates the acts of worship from time to time using different groups of pupils. This has led to new songs being introduced and more involvement of pupils. There is a helpful Worship Policy which includes advice on planning and a how it will be monitored and evaluated. Most of the evaluation has been conducted by the head teacher.

Pupils have a good attitude to worship and contribute positively by listening well, singing with enthusiasm and making contributions with prayers and readings from time to time. Older pupils were able to express their preferences for certain types of worship songs and their appreciation of the quiet time for reflection. Effective links with the staff of St Mary's who regularly take worship has resulted in over 100 pupils attending the church Sunday groups. Worship has helped pupils reflect on fundamental issues and met their needs at critical times as can be seen in the special garden dedicated to a pupil who died in recent memory. More recently a pupil used worship time to engage the rest of the school in supporting the Blue Peter shoe appeal this was mentioned by other pupils as an act of worship they particularly remembered.

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

The head teacher has a clear personal vision for the school which reflects its Christian foundation. Over the many years of service to the children and staff in her care she has, through strong leadership, established an ethos which is highly valued by the community. The vision statement which incorporates Christian values is well supported by staff and governors. Foundation governors actively support the Christian character of the school but their profile is not sufficiently high enough to be recognised by parents. However, the Governing Body has established systems for evaluation and areas for development have been identified. Good opportunities have been created for staff and governors to explore the nature of a church school.

RE and Collective Worship are good and make a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the school as a Church of England school. RE is well coordinated and good systems for evaluation and monitoring have been established. Pupils enjoy RE and can make the connection between topics covered and those encountered in worship. Staff make full use of the good resources and have adopted the new assessment tasks well. Although the coordinator does not have dedicated administration time she is able to work on the subject action plan by requesting release for specific tasks. The subject has appropriate status and contributes successfully to the pupils' personal as well as academic achievement.

Parents appreciate the caring and family orientated approach the school adopts but are not sufficiently aware of the Christian aims and values which have created it.