

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Long Lane Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Long Lane Village
Dalbury Lees,
Ashbourne,
Derbyshire.
DE6 5BJ

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire
Dates of inspection: 27th, 28th September 2006
Date of last inspection: June 2001
School's unique reference number: 112846
Headteacher: Mrs S Goodall
Inspector's name and number: Mrs R Wibberley 312

School context

Long Lane Church of England school is a very small primary school of 27 pupils, mainly white British, taught in 2 mixed age classes. The school serves local villages and outlying farms.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Long Lane Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding.

This outstanding school shows real strengths in its spiritual, moral, social and cultural life. Outstanding relationships within the whole school community and between school and parish are rooted in Christian values. Each member of the community shows genuine caring and concern for the well being of others. The commitment of the staff shows through the innovative RE teaching which contributes to the outstanding ethos of the school.

Established strengths

- The outstanding Christian ethos of the school .
- The outstanding leadership of the headteacher and her team of staff and governors.
- The excellent relationships between all those involved in the school and church.

Focus for development

- Review how the distinctive character of the school can be more clearly identified to visitors when they enter the school.
- Set up a formal system to evaluate collective worship with children and governors.

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

There is an outstanding Christian ethos evident in all areas of the school. Most staff are committed Christians who are excellent role models for the well behaved and caring pupils. The relationships between staff and pupils and between pupils are excellent. This is demonstrated by the children's care for children with special needs and a non-English speaking child. Children describe the school as a "family" and are confident in the support they receive. Parents value the ethos of the school and recognise its Christian values. Parents commented on the "traditional Christian values". Foundation Governors are well informed, supportive and have good ideas for future developments such as "church days" involving the wider group of small church schools in the area. Links with the local Church are very good with both the vicar and a parish team taking collective worship in school monthly. These acts of worship contribute to the monthly themes and lead the children to a greater understanding of the wider Christian community. The vicar, as Chair of Governors,

understands the needs of his school community well. It is significant that parents from farther afield and of no faith or another faith are choosing to take their children to Long Lane because of the caring nature of the school community based on their Christian values..

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Collective worship is well thought through and organised. Junior children transform their classroom quickly to provide a calm, quiet, reflective space. Anglican prayers and responses, reflection and silence aid pupils' spiritual development. Music and hymn singing enhances that experience. Most staff participate in collective worship. The interactive "chair" focus area with well chosen artefacts reminds children of the monthly worship theme. Children participate well answering questions and offering ideas and prayers. Their behaviour in worship is very good. Informal evaluation of Collective worship by staff takes place but the impact upon children has not been monitored. Children fondly remember acts of worship in church which involved drama or music. They understand that through worship they learn moral values such as looking after each other and valued the calm, quiet start to the day. Continuing Professional Development for collective worship resulted in a changed organisation for worship which now allows time for reflection. Evaluation of the impact of Collective worship upon the children now needs to take place.

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

The headteacher has an outstanding Christian commitment to her school. She has a clear vision for the school as a church school. Aply supported by worshipping Christian staff and Governors, she promotes Christian values which permeate the life of the school. All staff are involved in creating the positive Christian ethos. Displays in school promote the Christian foundation and prayers are said before lunch. Parents speak confidently about the school's aims for developing "the whole child". Governors are knowledgeable and have a shared vision for their Church school. Spiritual development is good because the school actively looks for development opportunities such as the Year 6 "Does God go to secondary School" day in the cathedral Children talked enthusiastically about the new approach to Collective worship which allows them "thinking time" and "quiet time". RE is well planned, delivered and assessed. The RE coordinator is enthusiastic and manages the subject well with evidence of children's standards recorded. The school has addressed issues from the last denominational inspection.

SIAS report September 2006 Long Lane Primary School, Long Lane, Dalbury Lees
Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 5BJ