

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Long Whatton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

The Green
Long Whatton
Loughborough
Leics
LE12 5DB

Diocese: Leicester

LA: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 11th and 15th January 2007

School's Unique Ref. No: 120142

Name of Head teacher; Mrs Sue Landon

Inspector's name (with N.S. No): Mrs Marian Driver (No: 116)

Context

Long Whatton CE Primary school is a small village school situated in NW Leicestershire. The school is a 4+ to 10+ school with 3 mixed age classes. The 58 children on roll are white British and come mainly from the village of Long Whatton with some children from Breedon and Osgathorpe. Standards on entry are above the Leicestershire and national average. Less than 7% of children are on the special needs register. The school has a special relationship with the parish church, across the road and is highly respected in the community.

Summary Judgement

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

Long Whatton CE Primary is a good church of England school which provides sound teaching of the Christian faith and provides many opportunities for cultural awareness. Leadership and Management is good. The strong links with the parish church and other churches in the village provide good support for the school's Christian foundation.

Established strengths

- Headteacher very well supported by staff and governing body
- Strong Christian ethos evident in school
- Very strong community links with village and associated churches
- Effective school council involved in decision making and supporting charities
- Children who are culturally aware and are knowledgeable about difference

Focus for development

- Acknowledge the strong Christian ethos by making the Christian Foundation explicit in the aims and other school documentation
- Celebrate the Christian ethos which is so clearly evident in the school with visual stimuli e.g. cross, wallhanging, photo of the church or other Christian artefacts
- Continue to develop the evaluative role of the staff and governors in Collective worship and the development of Long Whatton as a church school.

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

Long Whatton is a friendly, welcoming school with a caring Christian ethos. Pupils enjoy coming to school to see their friends, feel safe and like the closeness of the environment. Parents are welcomed and valued and well supported through difficult times. The effective school council takes on responsibility and makes decisions about fund raising. Pupils are aware of the benefits that fundraising can bring to those less fortunate than themselves. Behaviour is good and rooted in Christian values and talked about each day. The school rules are on display in each classroom. Although classes have their individual reward systems, the school's 'pupil of the week' is much sought after; each Friday the KS1 and KS2 pupil of the week takes home a certificate and their photograph appears on the board. Attractive displays enhance the classrooms and in particular the display of the visit to Coventry Cathedral, Joseph and his coloured coat and prayers for Remembrance Day. A montage of different faces in the reception area is one way in which the school helps the pupils to discuss and learn how to relate across cultures. Links with a Nottingham school, music workshops from other countries and a visit to a Sikh Gurdwara enable the children to develop their cultural awareness and understand differences.

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

Collective Worship is an important part of the life of the school and is enriched by the regular support from the lay reader of All Saints church and members of the Baptist and Methodist churches. The school attends church once a month except for the winter months. The lay reader welcomed the children, lit a candle and reminded them of the significance of the candle. Using children to tell the story of the builders on the rock and the sand she demonstrated how Christians think of God as their foundation and their rock. Prayers were sensitive and meaningful. The Headteacher in her act of worship celebrating world religion day involved pupils to remind others of the differences in the world. She related the hymn about the 'perfect picture' of the world to the idea of people being different but living harmoniously together. Pupils were aware of the importance of prayer and enjoyed the 'time to think about things'. They were aware of the need to pray for others and said that they enjoyed making up their own prayers. Pupils say grace at lunchtimes. Pupils have been involved in discussions and understand words like racism, prejudice and discrimination and said that, "it is what people are like inside which is important".

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

The headteacher is very well supported by the chair of governors and the governing body who are committed to the Christian ethos. The supportive staff are valued and work effectively as a team. The work of the Parents' Association enhances the life of the school. Parents are happy with the education their children receive, have regular contact with the school and support the learning. The school works in a close, relationship with the local parish church and churches of other denominations. A detailed whole community newsletter including the school demonstrates how everyone tries to help and support each other. The school, however, will benefit by giving a higher profile to the Christian community by including the historic foundation in the aims of the school within the prospectus and relevant school policies and by more detailed evaluation of Collective worship and development as a church school.