

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Lovington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Castle Cary,  
Somerset.  
BA7 7PX

#### **Diocese: Bath and Wells**

Local authority: Somerset

Dates of inspection: February 13 2007

Date of last inspection: September 2004

School's unique reference number: 123766

Headteacher: Miss J Barrett

Inspector's name and number: Mrs P Dodds (217)

#### **School context**

Lovington Church of England School is a rural primary school with 58 children on roll, in 3 mixed-age classes. Numbers vary significantly between year groups and have been falling, although more pupils are now attending from outside the village. The grounds have been developed to provide a playground, playing field, outside adventure area, wildlife area and 'millennium garden'. The school also has a swimming pool. It provides a pleasant, secure and welcoming environment in which the learners are proud to be educated.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Lovington as a Church of England school are good**

Lovington Church of England School is a good church school which provides a distinctively Christian atmosphere in which to educate all its learners. Children's care and education are a priority, achieved by placing Christian values at the heart of all it does. Aspects of this church school are outstanding.

#### **Established strengths**

- The strong leadership of the headteacher with her high regard for the value of each child.
- The clear improvements since the last OFSTED and Section 23 inspections.
- The careful planning for RE and Collective Worship, leading to a variety of styles of Christian acts of Worship.
- The good links between school, church and the wider community.

#### **Focus for development**

- To create areas in each classroom for quiet reflection and class worship.
- To engage children further in evaluation of their Collective Worship.
- To ensure the standard of RE and Collective Worship is maintained and developed in the light of imminent structural changes.

#### **The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding in the way it meets the needs of all learners.**

The emphasis placed on Christian values is greatly appreciated by children, parents and governors, and enhances the community feel of the school. Christian values are modelled by adults and made explicit in their dealings with children and in all policy documents. There is an ethos of praise, celebration and encouragement which has a powerful impact on pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Relationships are outstanding between all within the school, the children declaring that they feel valued and listened to, safe and secure and that they enjoy their work. Parents and governors speak of high expectations leading to high aspirations. Religious Education is well planned and enjoyed by the children, providing discussion about God and faith issues and how these are relevant to their lives. It could be further enhanced by using the Diocesan schemes for Easter, Christmas and Pentecost. Children's written work is evidence of the distinctive Christian nature of the teaching, alongside an understanding of other faiths. Evidence of work sampling, lesson observation

records and conversation with the RE subject leader show the importance given to meeting the needs of all the learners. The school environment is distinctive in having a 'Millennium Garden' with statues and artefacts, giving opportunity for quiet reflection and occasional Collective Worship. A cross in the entrance hall and RE posters in the hall are further evidence of the Christian character of the school. It is intended to further enhance the learners' experience with an increased multi-cultural input.

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

Worship is a distinctive time and considered central to the life of the school. Adults and children say they enjoy and gain benefit from acts of Collective Worship, which are carefully planned by the subject leader and led by the headteacher, local Anglican clergy or a parent/governor using the 'Open the Book' scheme of interactive storytelling. The variety of Christian worship is a strength of the school, and use of the parish church for services at major festivals, Education Sunday and others contribute greatly to the children's spiritual growth and understanding. The children sing well and are familiar with the Lord's Prayer, also saying Grace before lunch and prayers at the end of the day in KS1. Governors attend Collective Worship from time to time and a Foundation governor monitors and reports back to full governor meetings to ensure that Collective Worship maintains its place at the heart of school life. As part of the monitoring process a questionnaire has recently been given to all children, evoking a positive response to worship leaders and to the opportunities for both lively participation and quiet reflection. The school intends to make this a regular feature of the monitoring and assessment of Collective Worship.

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

The headteacher has worked with governors to make significant improvements to the school since previous OFSTED inspections and has promoted a vision based on Christian principles, of which all members of the community speak confidently. Collective Worship, SMSCD and RE policies have all been revised with advice from the Diocesan advisor and clearly state the school aims and ethos based on its Christian foundation. The headteacher's commitment to Christian values is a role model for all in the school community and ensures a good Christian education is provided for the children. The staff team helps to implement the distinctive and shared vision, as they feel trusted and valued. They deliver a good RE curriculum, supported by an excellent subject leader. It will be important in the future to sustain this support as the subject leader is in school for very few hours. The headteacher and governors are keen to select staff sympathetic to the Christian ethos of the school and ensure that training in teaching in a Church of England school is a part of the induction process.

The ethos of the school is outstanding, displaying many Christian values such as love, care and value for the individual. The headteacher claims that respect is taught and that the focus is on forgiveness rather than sanctions. As one boy in class1 told me: 'Everybody's included'. Against this backdrop the learners make very good progress and the school is a central part of community life in Lovington.