

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Malborough with South Huish School Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Malborough,  
Kingsbridge  
TQ7 3RN

**Diocese: Exeter**

LA: Devon

Date of Inspection : 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006

Date of Last Inspection: June 2004

School's Unique reference number: 113399

Acting Headteacher: Mrs Janis Davies

Inspector: Dr Vanessa Rowe 187

#### **School context**

This is a small village school. A number of children travel in from outlying villages. The catchment area includes private, local authority and low cost housing. There is a very high flux of children coming into the school throughout the year (30%). Attainment on entry is slightly below average and there is an above average number of children on the SEN register. There has been substantial turbulence in the leadership with an acting head in post for 2 and a half years. The 'executive' head and the acting head, have brought about considerable improvements over the past year.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Malborough with South Huish School as a Church of England school are good.**

The Christian ethos permeates all aspects of school life, particularly in the quality of its pastoral care and relationships. It enjoys an excellent reputation within the community and its leadership has shown commitment and perseverance through a difficult period leading to greater stability and improved standards.

#### **Established strengths**

- The quality of pastoral care including for those with learning difficulties
- The commitment and enthusiasm of the acting head, staff and governor
- The considerable improvements over the last year in standards, monitoring, consistency and the physical environment

#### **Focus for development**

- There needs to be a more explicit acknowledgement of the school's Christian foundation documentation.
- Clarification and strengthening of the place of collective worship within the school, as a school, and how it is distinctive from RE. Both need to be better resourced

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

The Christian values of care and service are strongly embedded and permeate the school's life. Staff and governors are passionate about and successful in creating a safe, happy and secure community in which children develop both spiritually, emotionally, socially and academically. Children feel listened to and valued as unique whatever their abilities, whilst feeling challenged their learning. The imaginative and integrated curriculum maximizes enjoyment, relevance and

learning and contributes well to children's spiritual development. Examples of work in RE, Art and History are particularly noteworthy in this respect, as is the Quiet Garden. Children are confident, polite and enthusiastic to learn, to think and to reflect. They love coming to school. They take responsibility for their behaviour and contribute to decision-making through the school council. Relationships are exceptional, being rooted in the Christian values of respect, encouragement, forgiveness and mutual commitment. Parents are unanimously delighted with every aspect of the school and have been highly supportive of its leadership through difficult times.

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

It is coherently planned and links in with other themes throughout the curriculum which helps it to be meaningful and relevant to the children. They enjoy it and participate well through drama, prayers, singing, listening and reflecting. The worship area creates a sense of occasion and intimacy but the lack of a clear physical focus using traditional Christian symbols and prayers, weakens the distinctiveness and meaning of worship as a Christian event. The children attend church once a month but clergy do not come into school to lead worship which again lessens the impact on children of the essentially Christian character of worship in a Church of England school.

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

The ethos of the school is well rooted in Christian values and staff, governors and parents are at one in considering this the distinctive feature of the school. However, this purpose as a church school is not sufficiently explicit in the school's mission, aims and documentation. Its Christian foundation is also insufficiently promoted by the poor use of icons around the school, particularly in the reception area. However, other displays are excellent and contribute well to the Christian ethos of the school. Links with the local community and awareness of the wider, global community are very good. The acting head and the staff and governors should be commended for their vision, energy and perseverance over the last two and a half years in which, despite considerable difficulties, huge improvements have been made to provide a happy, successful and united school which is prized by and firmly rooted in the local community of which it is a part.

SIAS report September 06 : Malborough and South Huish School, Malborough, Kingsbridge TQ7 3RN