

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Marshfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Chippenham Road

Marshfield

SN14 8NY

Diocese of Bristol

South Gloucestershire LA

Date of inspection: 12th March 2008

Date of last inspection: October 2003

School's Unique reference number: 109168

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Kay Pettifer

Inspector's name and National Society inspector's number: Mrs Carole May NS113

Context

The new school building opened in 2001. Its design reflects the conservation status of the village. Most of the 152 pupils come from the village and are of white British backgrounds. The number of children with educational difficulties or disabilities is above the national average. A small number of children are from traveller backgrounds. Over the past two years there has been several new staff, including the head and deputy.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Marshfield Primary as a Church of England School are outstanding

This impressive school successfully fulfils its mission statement and Christian values permeate every aspect of its work. All members of the school community follow a code of behaviour based on mutual respect. They unite to provide an attractive and stimulating learning environment where pupils are helped to grow in self confidence, self esteem and spiritual awareness. The school's values are evident in the caring relationships existing throughout the school and in the excellent behaviour and positive attitudes of the pupils. The spacious and well planned school environment is used very effectively to provide opportunities for spiritual development. The links between the school, the church and the village community are exceptional and valued by all.

Established Strengths

- The outstanding Christian ethos of the school in which all pupils are nurtured, valued and helped to develop into mature and responsible adults.
- The strong sense of team work promoted by the head's drive and vision for school improvement.
- The wealth of exciting opportunities which help the children to develop into mature and responsible adults.

Focus for development

- Improve children's understanding of faiths other than Christianity within the context of the diocesan syllabus for religious education.
- Make more explicit teachers' commitment to supporting Christian values and lifestyle by their attendance at all whole school acts of worship.

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

There is a very welcoming happy and extremely purposeful ethos throughout the school. Relationships are excellent and teachers provide very good role models. There are rich and varied interactive displays around the school which proclaim and promote the school's distinctive Christian character. These give excellent support to religious education and other aspects of the curriculum. Staff and pupils speak very positively about the school. They enjoy their work and are justifiably proud of their achievements and determined to do their best to further improve their school. All pupils are valued and cared for well and there is very good provision for the gifted and talented as well as for those with physical and learning difficulties. Academic standards are high and behaviour is excellent. Lessons are carefully planned to meet the differing needs of pupils. Teachers' skilled questioning makes pupils think hard about challenging issues and come up with their own ideas. All lessons effectively promote and enhance spiritual development and well-being and children make excellent progress in spiritual awareness. Self esteem and respect for others is carefully fostered. Cultural development is promoted very well through music, art, literature and drama. Lifestyles in other countries are studied and world wide issues are raised. This has a very good impact on the work of the very active school council who raise money for a variety of charities and is working towards gaining the Eco School Award. They are looking very seriously at practical ways to save energy and resources in and around the school. In RE, pupils' knowledge of Christianity is very good. However, their understanding of other religions is below the level expected in the locally agreed syllabus. The school is aware of this and effective measures have recently been put in place to address this. An exceptionally wide range of interesting and exciting extra curricular activities are provided. These are led by staff from both the school, other professionals and by parents. Parents and the community are very active in their support of the school. There are good links with other schools both locally and in other countries. Links with the community and local organisations are very good.

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

Carefully planned acts of worship demonstrate the importance of the daily act of worship. These are held for individual classes, age related groups and, twice a week, for the whole school. At present, all teachers attend only one of the two whole school acts of worship. Christian worship is led by a variety of staff and other adults including the vicar, the local Baptist minister and a representative from The Christian Union. Christian symbols such as candles, a cross and pictures enhance these occasions and promote, with appropriate music, quiet reflection. Pupils are very attentive and play an active part responding very well to questions and joining in a range of hymns and prayers including the Lord's Prayer. Sometimes they help to lead worship. In an excellent act of worship older pupils performed the story of Jesus healing the leper. The headteacher made clear the relevance of compassion in pupils' daily lives through skilled questioning and careful choice of both hymn and prayer. Special events and celebrations take place in the parish church. These are very well attended by children, staff, parents and the local community all of whom speak very positively about these events. The foundation governors monitor and evaluate the quality of worship and report back to the governing body. A survey of pupils' views was held recently. These are very positive. It is intended that this will become a regular feature of the process of school self-evaluation.

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

The dedicated and committed headteacher and governing body ensure that the school's Christian status is at the heart of the daily life of the school. The mission statement and aims of the school are practically implemented in every aspect of the life and work of the school. The whole school community is engaged in striving for continuous improvement. This results in highly effective teamwork implementing the improvements planned and in a clear and strategic sense of direction and Christian purpose throughout the school. Regular, high quality continuous professional development is provided for all staff by the local education authority and the diocese.

There are very effective procedures in place for the appointment of staff. This has resulted in a very able team with a variety of talents. Foundation Governors play an active role in this together with providing effective spiritual and pastoral links.. An able, enthusiastic and knowledgeable subject leader for religious education was appointed in September 2007. She is a member of the senior management team and is very effectively supported in promoting the subject by a Foundation Governor. The cycle of topics has been revised ensuring that every aspect of the locally agreed syllabus is given sufficient emphasis. A system of assessment has been introduced and an audit of resources begun.

The wider community is kept very well informed about all school aspects of school life through the school's impressive web site. Regular newsletters are sent out to parents and notice boards in both school and church proclaim forthcoming events. Parents' views are sought through questionnaires and surveys. This, together with the very close involvement between the school, church and local community results in enthusiastic support for the work of the school and its Christian vision.

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