

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Matching Green Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Little Laver Road  
Matching Green  
Harlow  
Essex  
CM17 0QB

#### **Diocese: Chelmsford**

Local authority: Essex

Dates of inspection: May 25<sup>th</sup> 2007

Date of last inspection: May 18<sup>th</sup> 2005

School's unique reference number: 115126

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Keefe

Inspector's name: Richard Maudsley 305

#### **School context**

Matching Green is a small village school. Virtually all the pupils are of white British heritage and the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is low. There are currently 65 pupils on roll and this is increasing. There is a wide spread of attainment throughout the school. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is close to the national average and two pupils have statements of special education needs. The pupils are taught in four classes in the morning and three in the afternoon. PE, assembly and dinners are held in the former church building next door to the school, which is very small.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Matching Green as a Church of England school is good with some outstanding features.**

A good school based on and motivated by the values of its Christian tradition and foundation. Matching Green provides an environment in which all children can flourish in all aspects of their learning and personal development. The Headteacher, staff and governors have created a school environment, which reflects a Christian framework where all pupils feel valued and cared for. There are high expectations from all stakeholders involved in providing quality education. Children are very clear in their understanding of what makes Matching Green a church school.

#### **Established strength**

- Strong leadership of the Headteacher supported by the Governors and the Vicar have helped establish the Christian ethos of the school, encompassing the school's vision of inclusiveness based on the Christian values of 'love and respect'
- Excellent Acts of Worship, which involved children and adults and was clearly seen as a special time for thinking, reflecting and praying.
- A highly supportive and dedicated staff who are committed towards providing an inclusive education for all pupils and in particular the involvement of the Vicar was seen by all as a major strength of the school.

#### **Focus for development**

- The size and shape of the current hall does not allow for staff and pupils to experiment with a more flexible style of worship. The school is looking towards expansion as pupils numbers increase and would aim towards becoming a four class village school. This would involve expanding the current site and creating new teaching areas and a new hall.
- To help create opportunities for staff to observe different school assemblies in other settings and places.

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

There is a strong Christian ethos throughout the school and is apparent in all areas of school life from documentation and displays to learning and relationships. The commitment to meeting the needs of all learners is passionately driven by the Headteacher and fully supported by the staff and governors. The school ethos is one of mutual respect and care where all children can flourish. Children are happy and secure and have a range of strategies for expressing their concerns through informal talks with staff and the established School Council. A key strength is that Matching Green is a 'small school' where individuals count. The pupil voice is strong and helps impact on developments throughout the school. The staff and outside supporters work well as a team, implementing the aims of the school and in this way providing good role models for the children

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

The school places great importance upon collective worship in its daily life. It acknowledges the valuable and supportive contribution made by the Vicar and other members of the community. There is clear planning and structure to the act of worship and all members of the school community were involved. When questioned during the inspection pupils expressed enjoyment of collective worship and their responses were highly positive. The act of worship observed during the inspection was very good and fully in keeping with the Anglican tradition. It centred on the knowledge of God's presence everywhere and provided an opportunity for prayer, praise and reflection.

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

The Headteacher inspired by her own Christian vision of the school has moulded a responsive and dedicated team of teachers and other stakeholders having successfully overcome problems in the past. Parents fully approve of the strong Christian ethos and are pleased that their children receive a good education with a strong emphasis on spiritual moral social and cultural development There is a clear vision of where the school needs to improve and how this can be achieved. The governors are fully committed towards working towards meeting the needs of all pupils and are constantly looking to improve and develop all aspects of its Christian ethos.

Matching Green Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Little Laver Road, Matching Green, Harlow, Essex CM17 0QB May 2007