

# National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

## Neatishead Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Road  
Neatishead  
Norwich  
Norfolk  
NR12 8XN

### Diocese: Norwich

Local authority: Norfolk

Dates of inspection: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Date of last inspection: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2004

School's unique reference number: 121090

Headteacher: Mrs Beverly Barrett

Inspector's name and number: Reverend Philip G. Blamire (382)

### School context

Neatishead is a smaller than average Church of England voluntary controlled primary school. It serves a village community in the area of the Norfolk Broads. The social and economic background of pupils is broadly average. The numbers of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds or who speak English as an additional language are very low. The village and the school lie within a group of six parishes led by a priest who has been in post for just over a year.

### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Neatishead as a Church of England school are good with some outstanding features.**

The school confidently reflects the key Christian values of love, care, tolerance and respect in a secure and vibrant environment. Through the dynamic and effective leadership of the Head Teacher, it ensures that these values are lived out in partnership with pupils, parents, staff, the local church and the wider community.

### Established strengths

- The strong Christian ethos that enables the pupils to feel valued, respected and happy
- The outstanding leadership of the Head Teacher who inspires and nurtures a clear Christian vision shared with all pupils and adults
- The high quality of worship that is central to the school day
- The good and growing links with the local church and community in which the pupils play a significant role

### Focus for development

- Strategies to develop a clearer understanding of Jesus, the key Christian festivals and the spread of the Good News of the Gospel
- Establish the proposed Bible Group and after school Church Group
- Improve the monitoring role of the Foundation Governors

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

The clear and unambiguous Christian message of love, tolerance, respect and joy is evident in all the school's documentation – the excellent School Prospectus prominently displays the school's mission statement and the award-winning Report to Parents (2005) speaks confidently of the impact of Christian values in the school and its total commitment to involve parents and the wider community. Pupils live-out these values. They talk with enthusiasm about being always valued and cared for by "very friendly teachers" who are "fair". The Behaviour Policy is based upon rights and responsibilities. The school is ordered and works in a calm and entirely positive atmosphere. The pupils respond positively and behave well. All adults working in the school encourage, reward and celebrate care and concern for others. They actively encourage pupils of all abilities to fulfil their worth and their unique potential. The school corridors and classrooms are covered with vibrant and colourful displays of pupils' work: much of it speaks positively of their great concern for the environment; the need for good behaviour; the celebration of achievements in the community. The active and effective School Council is fully involved in a range of charitable works: raising money for Seeds for Africa providing a medicinal garden and apple tree for a village community. The excellent Buddy Group system has evolved over the past two years and has enabled 'family-groups' of pupils to work hard on their relationships in an atmosphere of tolerance, friendship and understanding. Conflicts are always dealt with compassionately and in a spirit of forgiveness. There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities enjoyed by a large number of pupils both at lunchtime and after school. This has a significant impact on raising the pupils' self-esteem particularly in relation to improving their personal fitness and behaviour.

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

The positive message in the school community is that daily worship matters. It is central to the life of the school and is reflected in consistently well planned, highly imaginative acts of worship that invariably focus on the good news of the Gospel. In the hall the impact is visually striking where the pupils' display of 'Jesus is friend to little children' is prominent. Underneath and along the wall is their frieze of 'God creator of the world'. The pupils feel involved in worship and show a keenness to be a part of the celebration. Weekly themes are led by all the staff in turn and by a member of the clergy. Pupils are becoming increasingly involved in the presentation of daily worship – reading from the bible; writing and leading prayers; getting ready for worship. They participate with confidence and with enthusiasm. There is time for silence and prayer built into each act of worship giving the pupils a sense of spiritual support through quiet reflection. Pupils talk about the key festivals with some confidence and clarity and are given regular opportunities to mark the Christian Year through special services in the local church at Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter. However, the school needs to adopt a strategy whereby pupils will improve and develop a clearer knowledge and understanding of Jesus and the key Christian holy days.

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

The Head Teacher clearly articulates the Christian character of the school. She leads by example and inspires a genuine love for the school that is shared by pupils and staff. All adults working in the school feel valued and contribute willingly to its Christian vision. The Midday Supervisors play a key rôle in managing and building positive relationships in the playground at lunchtime. The recent introduction of 'Peaceful Playground Awards' coupled with numerous supervised activities has led to a positive and thriving atmosphere of good behaviour. The relationship with the school and parents is good and has improved considerably over the past two years. The Head Teacher, staff and Governors have created effective partnerships with parents and the regular Open Forums in each class enable them to feel that their views are valued. The wider community has benefited considerably from this improved relationship. The pupils and staff are involved in a number of annual festivals in the village and neighbouring parishes. Governors support and promote the school through its Christian foundation. Foundation Governors monitor collective worship and check that the school is living out its vision as a church school. However, the school would benefit from a more structured and regular pattern of evaluation. The contribution of the parish priest and other clergy, who visit the school to lead worship, reflection and prayer, is significant and valued. The school and the church recognize that they need to continue to seek ways to develop and deepen their relationship.

SIAS report October 2006 Neatishead Church of England Primary School School Road Neatishead Norwich Norfolk NR12 8XN