

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Nether Stowey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Mill Close  
Nether Stowey  
Bridgewater  
Somerset  
TA5 1NX

#### **Diocese: Bath & Wells**

Local authority: Somerset  
Date of inspection: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2006  
Dates of last inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2002  
School's unique reference number: 123789  
Headteacher: Mr. Hugh Taunton  
Inspector's name and number: Mrs. Jenny Pestrige (153)

#### **School context**

The school has a new Headteacher who took up his post in September 2006, following the previous short Headship of 3 years; therefore the school is experiencing a transitional phase in its leadership. A new incumbent will be arriving at the Church in November. The school has been informed that it will have a further OFSTED inspection next year

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Nether Stowey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School as a Church of England school are satisfactory.**

The new Headteacher has a clearly defined vision for the development of its Christian ethos and its committed staff and governors enrich the school community. Therefore, the school has the capacity to develop its Christian distinctiveness.

#### **Established strengths**

- The clearly defined vision of the Headteacher to develop the Christian ethos of the school.
- The well-established, strong family community identity, which emphasises care for the individual, due to the expectations of the governors and all staff in the school.
- The quality of acts of collective worship and religious education for learners.

#### **Focus for development**

- The clarification of the Christian distinctiveness of collective worship in the policy, which is currently being written, using the National Society Toolkit as a framework.
- The development of the planning, monitoring and evaluation of collective worship, in order to ensure a range of content and experiences for learners.
- A review of the use of the Church & Clergy as a resource.

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

Parents and governors speak highly of the level of care provided by all staff for learners, which results in a calm, ordered atmosphere, where learners feel secure and happy. The behaviour and attitude of learners reflects the high expectations of the staff, and respect for the individual is clearly seen in relationships in the school. The special needs of individual learners are well met and are seen as a priority by the Headteacher, and learners benefit from the support of teaching assistants. Religious education makes a good contribution to the spiritual development of learners. The range of learning strategies used, such as in a lesson on Christian Baptism, means that learners are able to participate in discussions with a good level of understanding. The school contains several explicit signs, which reflect its Christian foundation, although more use could be made of both the indoor and outdoor

environment to provide opportunities for spiritual development. Parents and governors refer to the fact that it is “normal to be a Christian here” and “being a Christian in this school is cool”.

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

The act of worship observed, led by the Headteacher, indicates an outstanding awareness of the components of school worship for learners from Year R to Year 6. The appropriate use of music, songs, a table with various items to provide a focus, and the dramatic telling of the parable of the Prodigal Son, all provide learners with the opportunities for spiritual development, and for worship. Learners enjoy collective worship, and comment on the difference in these occasions experienced this term. Previous strong links with the Vicar in leading worship at the school, have been maintained by the Lay Reader during the vacancy, and this link is a strength of the school. The lack of a policy for collective worship and the limited termly plans are a focus for development, and need to include a monitoring and evaluation process, to involve pupils, staff, governors and parents.

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

The Headteacher has a clearly defined understanding of his role as the spiritual leader of the school and this is already making a positive impact on learners, parents and governors. The Headteacher has identified the need for the development of the Christian ethos of the school. The writing of the collective worship policy and detailed annual plans, following an extended rolling programme, will provide an opportunity to identify the Christian values of the school. Strategic steps need to be planned in order to share the vision and values the school community, using the National Society Toolkit as a framework for debate. The foundation governors and Headteacher are keen to develop the links between the Church and the school with the new Vicar, so that learners can benefit from an understanding of the Christian foundation of the school.

SIAS report October 2006 Nether Stowey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Mill Close, Nether Stowey, Bridgewater, Somerset, TA5 1NX