

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Newbold Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Cranborne Road
Newbold
Chesterfield
Derbyshire
S41 8PF

Diocese: Derby

Local authority: Derbyshire
Dates of inspection: 22nd/23rd March 2007
School's unique reference number: 112879
Acting Headteacher: Mrs. Kerry Cluxton
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Louise Patterson (310)

School context

There are 198 children on roll which makes this a smaller than average primary school. The headteacher left in the summer of 2006 and the new headteacher will take up post in the summer of this year. The acting headteacher has been released from classroom duties to fulfil this very demanding role. There is a rising number of children in the school with special educational needs, currently one in four. The pupils are from predominantly white backgrounds.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of a Newbold Church of England (Aided) Primary School as a Church of England school is outstanding.

Christian values underpin every aspect and dimension of the life of the school. This has a significant impact on learners. The quality of relationships witnessed during the inspection are outstanding, making all feel valued and special. Children are enthusiastic and take pride in the school and its church status. Christian values are embedded in the mission statement and aims and these are firmly rooted on 'the teachings of the Gospel'.

Established strengths

- An outstanding caring Christian environment for all involved in the everyday life of the school which has a significant impact on learners.
- The relationships between staff and learners, among learners, between staff and in the wider community are excellent.
- A culture of support and praise, where children are confident to express themselves is evident.
- The quality of Worship and Religious Education contribute positively to this as a Christian community.
- Strong and productive links with the local church, with regular contacts both formal and informal.

Focus for development

- The nature of worship at Newbold needs to be expressed in documentation along with the parental right of withdrawal.
- Pupils need to be involved in the planning and delivery of Worship.
- There needs to be more consistency with prayer across the school.

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

The Christian ethos is extremely strong and permeates every aspect and dimension of the life of the school including documentation, relationships and classroom practice. Excellent provision is made for the needs of all learners. Positive play and The Retreat, a room available for children who may need a quiet moment, are both having a very positive effect on learners. Valuing the individual and the quality of care are outstanding. Children show respect and are kind and caring. Children, staff and governors take pride in the church status of the school. The acting headteacher and other adults set very good role models who lead by examples of respect, care and love. Links with the parish are excellent with mutual careful consideration of each others needs and wants. There is an almost tangible team spirit amongst all members of the school community. Spiritual development is high on the agenda and has a profound effect on the school as a Christian community, for example, there are planned periods for reflection in many lessons.

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

Worship is of central importance to the life of the school and all involved are very positive about the experience. It is effectively planned and evaluated. There is a good range of topics, including major events in the Christian calendar. Appropriate use is made of the local church with major festivals and the leavers service celebrated there. Clergy regularly and effectively deliver worship, including a termly Mass which children and staff are very positive about. There is an 'easy oscillation' between the parish and school. When asked if worship were to be cancelled would school be a better or worse place, response from the children was unanimously 'worse'. They said there 'would be no time to pray' or 'learn more about Jesus'. Understanding of the Anglican ritual is well developed through the Mass. The service is appropriate with thoughtful prayers, communion and the sharing of bread. Behaviour is appropriate, whether silent in Mass or joyful at other services.

The impact of religious education is good

Teaching and learning are consistently good with some outstanding elements observed. Pupils are engaged and keen to be involved in the lessons delivered, often making thoughtful and sensitive contributions. This is especially true when the lessons are well structured and open questions used. This was evidenced in the majority of lessons observed. Difficult concepts such as emotions, death and sadness are thoughtfully and effectively managed. Variety in teaching styles has a positive impact on learning, with pupils responding well to challenge and creativity. Spiritual development is actively planned for and there are outstanding elements in many lessons, for example the atmospheric reflections on 'Badgers Parting Gifts' and the emotions of Easter week. Assessment is used effectively to inform planning. The scheme is currently under review and as such needs careful consideration in light of teacher responses and the views of the new headteacher.

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

Leadership provided by the senior team and governors contributes significantly to the success of this outstanding church school. All staff feel valued and appreciated and there is an excellent supportive team spirit. The role models provided by adults in the school are the inspiration for expectations for behaviour, care and respect for the individual, which are all significant characteristics of the school. The very strong links with the local church and wider Christian community are due to the commitment and dedication of all involved. Teamwork is outstanding with Christian values at its heart. Governors are supportive and caring in their role. The Acting leadership team and governors are giving a secure lead in promoting the ethos of the school and this clear sense of purpose encourages Christian values throughout the school community.