

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Newbold Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

School Lane  
Newbold Coleorton  
Leics  
LE67 8PF

**Diocese: Leicester**

LA: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006

Date of last inspection: 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2001

School's Unique Ref. No: 120149

Name of Head teacher; Mrs Lesley Brewer

Inspector's name (with N.S. No): Mr D G Jones (No: 166)

### **Context**

The school is situated in a small village near Coalville in North West Leicestershire. The parish church is at Worthington, over a mile from the school along a country lane. The church is part of a team ministry serving many churches in this area and the school has close links with the Reader at Worthington. There are 36 pupils on roll, aged 5 to 11. About a third attend from outside the school's priority area by parental preference, but none on denominational grounds. There are no pupils of a faith other than Christian, and none with a background in other cultures. There are no withdrawals from religious education or collective worship.

### **Summary Judgment**

**The distinctiveness and effectiveness of this school as a Church of England school are satisfactory.**

The school is fully committed to Christian values and these are central to the school's life and lead to a friendly and supportive atmosphere and influence pupils' development. The school has made good progress following a lengthy period of staffing problems.

### **Established strengths**

- Strong commitment to the Christian values that permeate the school's mission and practice;
- A friendly and supportive atmosphere with good knowledge of pupils and their families, and sensitivity to their circumstances, leading to good, caring relationships throughout the school;
- Well planned and enjoyable collective worship contributing to good spiritual and moral development and good behaviour;
- Good progress in improving staff stability and teaching quality with determined leadership by the Head and Governors and involving the whole staff team.

### **Focus for development**

- Develop opportunities for pupils to take a part in leading collective worship and writing the prayers used and include this in the School Improvement Plan;
- Provide regular prominent Christian displays showing work covered in school or links with the parish, the diocese or the world wide church;
- Create opportunities for pupils to encounter people of other faiths and to visit a variety of places of worship. Establish links where possible with schools in multicultural areas or other countries.

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

A commitment to Christian values is central to the school's life. Learners feel valued and special and relationships within the school community are exemplary. Older pupils care for younger ones and some are designated 'peacemakers' and help resolve difficulties. A school council enthusiastically takes real responsibility for new initiatives and charitable projects. Achievements are celebrated each week and this is appreciated. Residential experience is offered to older pupils annually and is very successful. However, outings to places of worship or to meet people of other faiths are rare because of cost and distance, though appropriate visitors are invited wherever possible. Cultural development is therefore weak but spiritual, moral and social development is strong. The school has endured several years of staff turbulence, but is now making good progress to establish a learning environment that is stable and of high quality, and one outstanding lesson was seen with older pupils. The Governors hold a parents' forum twice a term, and parents' views are also sought by questionnaire: most of the responses last spring were positive.

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

The school worships each day in a large mobile building that serves as the school hall. Each teacher takes their turn in leading worship, which twice a term the Reader from Worthington leads; this is very popular with the pupils. He also contributes to special services, such as at the end of term, and to religious education lessons from time to time. Thus he forms an invaluable link with the church. Acts of worship are well planned and imaginative and are enjoyable events of good quality. There is plenty of participation and pupils respond well, but they do not lead. Spiritual songs are well known and are sung with pleasure. Pupils join in prayers said by the teacher or frequently lead the Lord's Prayer. Stories are told well and include personal elements. A large number of puppets and other aids are used well and are popular. Themes are planned a term in advance, using diocesan suggestions. A brief record is kept of the songs, music and prayers used. A cross on a cloth-covered table provides a useful focus in a space that is used for many purposes. On one day a week, there is an emphasis on achievements, celebrating success inside and outside the school. This and worship at special festivals are attended by many parents and by all teachers. Worship makes a significant contribution to spiritual and moral development.

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

The headteacher and governors have led the school towards stable and good quality teaching after a lengthy period of staffing problems. The head is also fully committed to Christian values as central to the school's life, and she is fully supported by the governors and staff. Parents are regularly consulted by the governors and pupils are actively involved through the school council. Individual governors visit and observe collective worship, examine resources and displays, discuss matters with pupils and prepare written reports to the governors. The headteacher and governors are now committed to developing the part played by pupils in collective worship, to the provision of prominent displays relating to the Christian status of the school, to the improvement of monitoring and assessment in religious education and collective worship, and to make provision for these proposals in the School Improvement Plan.