

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **New Hinksey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Vicarage Road,  
OXFORD.  
OX1 4RQ

#### **Diocese of Oxford**

LA: Oxford

Dates of inspection: 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2007

Date of last inspection: 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2001

School's Unique reference number: 123142

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

Inspector's name and NS inspector's number: Mr David Shears (NS No. 423)

#### **Context**

New Hinksey Primary School is a small urban school in the centre of Oxford with 107 pupils on roll. Although in the middle of a city, there is a strong community spirit. The pupils mostly come from the local area and have a multi-ethnic background. There are a small number of pupils with English as an additional language.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of New Hinksey CE (VC) Primary School as a Church of England school are good**

The rich, caring Christian ethos of New Hinksey School ensures that all pupils are developing both in self-esteem and in their positive attitudes towards others. There is a growing vision and capacity to improve still further so that the needs of all the pupils are met both academically and spiritually. This is an inclusive school with a heart to reach out to its community and meet individual needs.

#### **Established strengths**

- The very good personal development of the pupils is driven by the Christian ethos of the school in which all pupils are included, nurtured and valued highly.
- There are effective links with the local church, promoting the Christian status of the school within the community in which it serves.
- Different faiths are represented in the school within a good atmosphere of tolerance and understanding shown by the pupils as a result of effective adult role models.
- Good leadership and management ensure that the school knows its strengths and weaknesses and has the capacity to improve.

#### **Focus for development**

- Develop the collective worship in the school by ensuring that there is effective and robust evaluation leading to improved future planning and delivery.
- Ensure that the School Development Plan includes aspects related to the Christian foundation that need to be improved.
- Develop the skills of the staff in promoting spiritual development.

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

There is a caring, supportive atmosphere at New Hinksey that pervades the whole of the school. Pupils enjoy coming to school and thrive in the rich Christian ethos, which ensures that their personal needs are met. The spiritual development of pupils, although satisfactory, needs to have a higher profile in order to match the very good provision of their moral, social and cultural development. Pupils say that they feel safe and are always treated respectfully and fairly by the staff. Pupils learn well about the importance of taking responsibility through a range of opportunities. These include an effective school council who work hard to raise money both for things they would like in school as well as external charities. They are very proud of their fund raising work. Pupils know how to be healthy through diet and exercise and share examples of how the school helps them to do this. As a result of a very strong ethos of care and support for all within the school, pupils have a positive view of others and in particular understand and respect their religious beliefs. The school is working hard in meeting the academic needs of all pupils and in particular those who have English as an additional language, although the impact of this has yet to be realised. Pupil achievements are celebrated with the whole school community, encouraging everyone to do their best.

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

Worship is planned well with the support of the local vicar who leads once a week. He ensures that there is an appropriate focus on Anglican practice. However, although there is a distinctive Christian character to the worship, there is also a very strong moral and social element which can become the overriding feature, minimising spiritual development. Pupils have the opportunity to visit the church on special occasions and parents are invited to attend. This helps families to engage with the local church. Where pupils have the opportunity to participate actively in worship they enjoy the experience, one pupil saying 'they teach you things you won't forget in a fun way'. Foundation governors attend worship and give oral feedback focusing on enjoyment and behaviour of pupils. Pupils wanting to participate more have been given the opportunity to read from the Bible. However, there is no formal evaluation in place. This was highlighted in the previous inspection and still needs to be addressed in order to ensure a high quality spiritual experience for all pupils on a regular basis.

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

The Headteacher supported by the foundation governors ascribe to a Christian vision for the school and have evaluated the school from this perspective. In particular the Headteacher receives good support from the local vicar, evaluating the impact of the spiritual provision in the school. Together the foundation governors know and understand its strengths and weaknesses and have good ideas of what they could do to improve, including creating an area where staff and pupils can go to reflect and pray. However, due to their current drive to raise standards in the core subjects, these have not yet been prioritised and transferred into action through their inclusion in the school development plan. This has resulted in there having been a lack of opportunity for professional development, which would help the leadership and staff of the school to plan and implement strategies for improvement. The co-ordinator for RE, nonetheless, has monitored and evaluated her curriculum area through a work scrutiny. This has resulted in a drive to develop more effective marking techniques which now include comments to challenge pupil's thoughts or highlight ways to improve their work. She has also audited the available resources for RE, identifying and purchasing necessary books to support staff. Parents and pupils at the school value the opportunities that the school gives to ascertain their views and these are acted upon appropriately. The Headteacher and foundation governors demonstrate a good capacity to improve.