

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Newport Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School,

Hazel Close,
Carisbrooke Meadows,
Newport
PO30 5GD

Diocese: Portsmouth

LA: Isle of Wight

Dates of inspection: 14th March 2007

Date of last inspection: May 2002

School's Unique reference number: 118200

Name of Headteacher: Mrs Linda Windsor

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number: Alan Brown 256

School Context

Newport Church of England Primary School is situated in an area of relatively new housing. There are 254 pupils on roll catering for the 4-9 age range. The school has the Healthy School, Eco-School and Basic Skills Awards. It is an Investors in People organisation.

Previous Inspection Details

Progress since the last inspection

The school was last inspected in 2002. The issues for development identified in that report have all been satisfactorily addressed including resources for the library and the inter-cultural needs of the pupils.

Summary Judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Newport as a Church of England school are outstanding

Newport CofE Primary School is an outstanding church school. The Headteacher has a clear vision of what it means to be a church school, is able to articulate this vision and ensure that it is put into practice. The leadership and management is outstanding. The relationship with the local church is very good indeed with the Incumbent and other visitors to the school making a significant contribution to the religious and spiritual life of the pupils. The leadership and management is outstanding. Great importance is placed upon worship through high standards of presentation, planning and recording. The quality of worship is outstanding as is the quality of learning and teaching in Religious Education.

Established Strengths

- The quality of leadership and management;
- The quality of teaching and learning in Religious Education and the support available for all staff;
- The commitment to providing excellent worshipping opportunities for pupils;
- The enthusiasm pupils have for their life in school.

Focus for Development

- To explore ways of using the church building more effectively to support pupils spiritual and religious development;

- To extend the opportunities for pupils to share in the planning of worship;
- To continue to enhance the teaching of Religious Education across the school through the development of critical thinking skills.

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

The Christian character of Newport CofE School is immediately obvious on entry and there are Christian symbols in places throughout the school. The school offers its pupils a clear insight into the meaning of the Christian faith and the importance of the spiritual life without being oppressive in any way. The aim of the Headteacher, the leadership team and the Governing Body, is to place the Christian character of the school at its heart underpinned securely through the application of distinctive Christian principles and values. Pupils volunteered how friendly the school is; they were able to discuss how they welcomed newcomers; and generally say they enjoyed all aspects of school life. Pupils are aware Newport CofE is a Church school through the visits of the Incumbent and other visitors from various church communities as well as through the modelling by staff of Christian beliefs and attitudes and the general ambience of the School. They appreciate those distinctive aspects of a church school that play a part in their school and spiritual experience. One important aim of the School is to enhance the spiritual life of the pupils by providing them with a firm foundation for understanding the Christian cycle of celebration and festival in addition to recognising the importance of belief, values and worship. There are very good links indeed with the Church and this could be a platform to build upon a more effective use of the parish churches.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The opportunities for collective worship at Newport CofE School are outstanding. The acts of worship attended were excellent with pupils being fully involved, listening carefully and attentively throughout. They sang well and enjoyed the experience. Some of the pupils commented on how much they liked worship and looked forward to 'assembly time'. The planning of worship and the records of evaluation detailing what has taken place are kept meticulously. It would, however, be appropriate to extend the opportunities for pupils to share in the planning of worship. Worship in Newport CofE School provides a focal point for the pupils' spiritual experience. There are displays on the walls in common areas and classrooms that are signposts and indicators of the pupils' creativity and imagination. No pupils are withdrawn from collective worship.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Religious Education is very well resourced with an excellent range of materials to support teaching across the whole school. The Religious Education subject leader has worked very hard work to ensure teaching is well supported and colleagues have a range of materials to meet the range of pupil abilities. The pupils' work identifies a variety of teaching strategies, allowing pupils to be imaginative, creative and to demonstrate what they have learned. All the lessons inspected were of a very high standard with pupils responding to the challenging and demanding questions posed in an animated and enthusiastic manner. The quality of learning and teaching in Religious Education within the school is outstanding. Pupils' work is thoughtfully marked, with encouraging comments while also identifying strengths and weaknesses. Careful records are kept. Standards are very high and staff have high expectations of the pupils, presenting them with lively, well planned and well taught lessons. Pupils respond readily to the variety of tasks by working willingly and effectively and with enthusiasm and enjoyment. Religious Education is clearly a priority subject at the heart of the school.

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

The leadership and management of Newport CofE School is outstanding. The Headteacher, staff, Governing Body and the Incumbent share a clear and agreed vision of what this Church school should be. It is a feature of the School that they are able to ensure that the vision of a church school serving the local community can be put into practice so effectively. This is a strength of the School. All staff at the School contribute to the relaxed, open and very welcoming environment in which pupils are able to give of their best. It is, however, purposeful with a sense of energy and dynamism. Parents can be secure in the knowledge that their children's welfare is paramount. The Headteacher and her staff work in a close and purposeful partnership providing an excellent Christian management framework for this outstanding Church school. There is a firm commitment to the local community, which includes the local church community, while reaching out beyond into the other communities that send their children to the school. The committed manner in which Newport CofE School serves its pupils, parents and the church while offering a welcome and open door to all members of the community is exemplary.

SIAS report March 2007 Newport Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Hazel Close, Carisbrooke Meadows, Newport PO30 5GD