

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Norton-in-Hales Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Main Road  
Norton-in-Hales  
Market Drayton  
Shropshire  
TF9 4AT

**Diocese: Lichfield**

LA: Shropshire

Date of inspection: 6 June 2007

Date of last inspection: February 2002

School's Unique reference number: 123491

Name of Headteacher: Dawn Herriott

Inspector's name with National Society inspector's number: Mr J N Cornall 518

### **School context**

This attractive rural school has 90 pupils from the village and its surrounding area. Space is limited with no hall or field. This has implications for the organisation of both the curriculum and worship. The school uses part of the nearby cricket ground for sporting activities. The Y5/6 class has to be reorganised for worship.

### **Summary judgement**

**Norton-in-Hales Controlled Primary School is satisfactory in its effectiveness and distinctiveness as a church school.**

Children are happy and find school work and worship interesting and challenging. The new head has identified and begun to initiate the changes recommended in the last Section 23 report in relation to the school's Anglican tradition, documentation and signage.

### **Established strengths**

- The head has a clear christian vision for the school.
- The school's restricted environment is used in imaginative ways and has many attractive features.
- Children of all ages enjoy school, friendships are strong and pupils are highly motivated.
- There is a happy atmosphere in the school with a strong team spirit.

### **Focus for development**

- Update communications with parents to include a mission statement in the School Prospectus and the importance of values education.
- Provide INSET support through the Diocese for staff and foundation governors on spirituality and worship.
- Explore ways of using the limited space in the school so that worship can take place in different places.
- Develop further links with the local church community.

**The school through its distinctive Christian character meets the needs of all its learners in a satisfactory manner**

Virtually all learners feel valued and special. They are friendly, talkative and enthusiastic. Stewardship of the building and its grounds is very evident with imaginative use of the playground environment. Children enjoy Acts of Worship and give thoughtful responses. Some children attend "Open Door" an after school christian based club. This provides an excellent range of Bible based themes and a series of interesting experiences. Values education has been introduced and themes such as compassion and justice link RE, worship and PSHE. However, children are not able to give specific examples of christian experiences in worship. Prayer is not a regular part of the school day. The school Prospectus and its signage don't affirm its controlled status. There is no mission statement in place for the school although this was recommended in its last inspection. The new head has plans in place to develop the school's ethos and Anglican tradition further. Links with the incumbent and visits to the beautiful parish church are now regular. In addition to the first nativity play in the church for years, children visit the church regularly for RE lessons. The school and church community are committed to extending their joint activities.

**The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is satisfactory**

Daily Acts of Worship take place in the Y5/6 classroom. These are usually led by the headteacher with regular support from the incumbent. Although there is no piano the children sing splendidly encouraged by the headteacher. Children participate in worship reading prayers and organising the room so that their attitude to worship is good, they respond to questions and participate fully in the worship. Other staff are not always present but the school is moving towards worship where the whole school family can feel involved and gain inspiration and spiritual growth from time together. Planning for worship is in place and changes to the current structure to include more class based worship are being considered. The vicar encourages attendance at church services and is a welcome visitor to the school. The new school and church team are determined to extend the quality and variety of worship and links with the church so that pupils engaged fully with its Anglican tradition.

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

The recently appointed head has clear targets and a personal vision to develop the school as a church school. Recent questionnaires show that parents, children and governors are strongly supportive of the changes in worship and ethos already made. The head is establishing a climate in which further changes can take place. Other staff are keen to be involved and INSET for worship is a priority. The head is now ensuring that all pupils are provided with an education which is based on and reflects christian values. She has identified the need for a wider range of worship styles and has begun to put these in place. In this she is well supported by the clergy. Foundation governors are not currently fully equipped to monitor and evaluate the worship and ethos of the school. Its Anglican status and traditions need to be celebrated and affirmed in all school documentation. Foundation governors need to make clear the school's mission statement and the importance of its controlled status.