

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Norwell Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

School Lane,  
Norwell,  
Newark,  
Nottinghamshire.  
NG23 6JP.

<b>Diocese:</b>	<b>Southwell and Nottingham</b>
LA:	Nottinghamshire
Date of inspection:	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2007
Date of last inspection:	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2002
School's URN:	122766
Headteacher:	Mr Noel Woodward
Inspector:	Mrs Anne Lumb (333)

#### School context

The school is smaller than the average primary school. Pupils come from Norwell, surrounding villages and nearby towns. All pupils come from a White British background. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is below average. The proportion of pupils with statements of special educational needs is average. The school is part of a local cluster of four primary schools known as the *4kando*. The headteacher was absent due to illness during the inspection.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Norwell as a Church of England school is good

Norwell Church School provides a happy and caring environment for its pupils which is based on Christian values. The school has just begun the process of its self-evaluation as a church school. The Acting Headteacher and the Governors are keen to address the issues raised by this process and by the inspection.

#### Established strengths

- Well planned Collective Worship which contributes significantly to pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.
- A committed Governing body which fosters and maintains strong links with the local church.
- A caring ethos which is based on Christian values and principles.

#### Focus for development

- Provide opportunities for all stakeholders to discuss and review the school's distinctive Christian vision, using the Toolkit where appropriate to assist in this process.
- Develop the new entrance hall to reflect the fact that this is a church school and encourage more displays related to RE / Collective Worship themes in classrooms.
- Seek the views of pupils on Collective Worship and encourage further pupil involvement in the planning for Collective Worship.
- As part of the school's review cycle, check (and amend where necessary) all relevant policies to ensure they are rooted in Christian values and contain some spiritual aspect.

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

The school is characterised by the good relations which are clearly evident amongst pupils and between pupils and staff. Pupils mix well together across the age range and mix of abilities. Pupils feel safe and secure. When asked what was the best thing about school, one pupil immediately answered, "The teachers are friendly and there's no bullying." The School Council meets regularly with the Acting Headteacher and they feel that their views are taken seriously and that issues are dealt with promptly. The children are seen as individuals, each one is special. One parent specifically chose the school because of its commitment to meeting the Special Educational Needs of her daughter and for the "rules for living" which the church school ethos provides. The Christian values on which the school's ethos is based are implicit in all aspects of school life; as one parent said, "The caring ethos and spirituality of staff communicates to the children." Elements of awe and wonder are regularly explored in class and there is a recognition of the achievements of others both in class and through the Friday Awards Assembly. There are plans to develop part of the outdoor nature area to include a space for quiet reflection which will encourage pupils' spiritual development in new ways.

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

Acts of worship take place in a calm and reflective atmosphere at the end of the school day. Worship has a positive impact on pupils' spiritual development and is central to school life. Pupils appreciate the opportunity for a quiet, "thinking time and calming time" at the end of the day. They make a clear link between worship time and getting to know about Jesus, learning how to behave and how to get along better together. The same values are explored in RE lessons, as the themes for RE and collective worship are linked in the planning for both. Parents also comment on the impact of collective worship on their children at home, as they often find themselves engaged in talking about God and discussing questions about God and Jesus which has encouraged parents to think about these issues in new ways. Pupils look forward expectantly to the Friday Assembly which has an awards and achievement focus. This time often includes a prayer and sometimes a Bible story which communicates the importance of the Christian life of the school to both parents and pupils. Pupils are involved in the planning and delivery of the regular services held at the local church. Whilst collective worship clearly has a good impact on the pupils, their views about collective worship have not been sought in any formal way. Gathering their comments will enable greater involvement in planning for collective worship. The collective worship co-ordinator has identified a need for staff training for worship and the need for some new Christian resources.

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

The foundation governors are very active in their support for the school and in maintaining links with the local church. Having recently begun the process of self-evaluation of the school as a church school, they and the Acting Headteacher recognise that the promotion of a distinctive Christian vision for the school is an area which is in need of development. There is a good opportunity to promote this vision through the development of displays and use of symbols in the new entrance hall and throughout the rest of the school. A review of relevant school policies should also incorporate the Christian values on which the school is based. Excellent links are evident with the church. Services are held by the school in the church at least once a term. Both the Vicar and a Foundation Governor are regular contributors to collective worship in school. Pupils' work is often displayed in the church. A worship time led by the Foundation Governor earlier in the week of the inspection had highlighted Mother's Day and included an opportunity for pupils to contribute to display work which could be taken to the church service the following Sunday, to which they were all invited.