

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Okeford Fitzpaine Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

The Cross  
Okeford Fitzpaine  
Blandford Forum  
DT11ORF

#### Diocese: Salisbury

Local authority: Dorset  
Dates of inspection: 17.05.07  
Date of last inspection: June 2001  
School's unique reference number: 113810  
Headteacher: Mr. Mark Acreman  
Inspector's name and number: Mrs. Fiona E. Brown 301

#### School context

Okeford Fitzpaine is a smaller than average Primary School with a private pre-school based on the school's site. Most of the pupils live in the village and are White British. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities is average. The school has recently been through a considerable amount of turbulence due to staff changes and movement of pupils.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Okeford Fitzpaine as a Church of England school are satisfactory

The school's distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church of England Primary School are satisfactory with some good features. The school has made significant improvement in all areas over the past eight months and is actively striving to improve the quality of RE and Collective Worship.

#### Established strengths

- The warmth and welcome which is given to every individual
- The Christian ethos where love and support for school and community are demonstrated
- The Headteacher's and Chairman of Governor's desire to take the school forward with Christian values underlying everything

#### Focus for development

- To further develop planning, monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship
- To further develop planning, monitoring and evaluation of RE
- To continue the effective collaborative work with staff, governors and community

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

The school makes good provision to meet the needs of all pupils. Their personal development is good because of the Christian ethos and the provision of a safe and caring environment. Decisions and discussions by the Head and Chair of Governors are all underpinned by Christian values and behaviour and these attitudes colour the vision for the school. It was evident by talking to pupils that they are listened to and make valuable contributions to the running of the school. They have a good understanding of healthy lifestyles and each day starts with 'Wake and Shake'. Pupils contribute to the wider community for example, sending Easter Cards to troops abroad, and the school is making a bigger impact in the local community. Peer 'mediators' and 'playleaders' have been trained to help pupils of all ages to be happy in the playground. The outside areas provide a good learning environment. Behaviour is good. A variety of clubs enhance the curriculum. The Rock Solid Christian Youth club meets once a month in school and is attended by up to 25 pupils. The Oak Tree pre-school is now working on site which is benefiting all. The Prayer

and Thought Tree in the entrance is used by many.

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

The impact of worship is satisfactory. It occupies a place of central importance in the life of the school. Although there is no vicar at present in the village local clergy are supporting the school and the Rector led the Ascension Day worship which had pupil participation and Anglican traditions. Year 6 pupils felt that all staff should attend worship otherwise it was not valuing it or setting a good example. Discussion is already underway about improving worship and involving pupils more in organising and evaluating it. Pupils spoke about the music and songs they preferred. Family Services take place once a month in the local church providing a link with school worship.

**The effectiveness of the Religious Education is satisfactory**

The impact of RE is satisfactory. The RE Co-ordinator is returning from Maternity Leave after half-term. She has already identified on her action plan and the School Development Plan ways to improve the RE teaching throughout the school. Key Stage 1 pupils visited the church as part of their unit on Signs and Symbols. The lesson and visit were well planned and the pupils gained so much from their visit. They were able to work individually and in groups to extend their knowledge. Pupils of all ages talk openly about their beliefs and air questions that they have. They are being challenged particularly by the Rock Solid group. Resources and planning is being reviewed so that it is more accessible to all staff.

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

The leadership and management of the school is satisfactory with some good features. The committed and inspired leadership from the new Headteacher and new Chair of Governors working closely together has already had a huge impact on the school community. They have a clear vision to improve the Christian ethos, worship, RE and standards for all. Parents are very happy with school and are pleased to have a Christian Headteacher and Christian values in place. They recognize that the school is improving having been through a difficult period. The pupils acknowledge this too although don't fully understand why things were not so good for them. Communication with all stakeholders has improved. There are some vacancies for foundation governors. Governors are now linked to staff members and curriculum areas. The new ICT suite, recently opened by the Bishop of Sherborne, is providing an excellent facility. The Headteacher should be proud of what he has achieved in a short time and for the vision he has for the continuing journey of this school.