

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Ospringe Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Water Lane

Ospringe

Faversham

Kent

ME 13 8TX

**Diocese: Canterbury**

Local authority: Kent

Dates of inspection: April 30<sup>th</sup> 2007

Date of last inspection: April 2002

School's unique reference number: 118646

Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Ralph

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Jackie Kemp 306

#### **School context**

Ospringe Church of England Primary School, situated in the community of Ospringe, bordering the A2 between Faversham and Sittingbourne, has 196 pupils on roll. Pupils mostly live in the locality or have moved locally and return to Ospringe for continuity in their education. The Head Teacher was appointed in September 2006, having been Acting Head and previously Acting Deputy. The recently appointed Priest-in-Charge is encouraging the growth of Church families in the school. An Ofsted Section 5 inspection in March 2007 found standards to be broadly average and improving, and teaching and curriculum is good. Personal development and well-being are judged to be good. The Leadership and Management is recognised as a strength and effective at putting improvements in place.

**The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Ospringe as a Church of England school are good**

#### **Established strengths**

- The school has clear Christian characteristics and values that are shared and displayed and these underpin decisions and prioritise actions in the school.
- The Head Teacher articulates a clear Christian vision and leadership for the school.
- Pupils express very positive views about the school and the experiences it offers within the school day and in the extended curriculum.
- Pupils are caring and understand their own needs and the needs of others.
- Relationships between adults and pupils and between pupils themselves are very good.
- Parents and carers speak very highly of the school and the very visible clear leadership.

#### **Focus for development**

- Involve pupils actively in their worship by providing more planned opportunities for reflection, evaluation and contributions to worship.
- Develop spirituality and a sense of awe and wonder in worship and the curriculum. There is a need to develop more opportunities for pupils to reflect on how the Christian content in worship can impact on everyday life.
- Strategies should be developed to engage pupils with worship and reduce distractible behaviours.
- Create opportunities for developing global links and further develop the sense of service for others that is already in existence.

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

The Christian character of Ospringe Church of England Primary School is very strong. This is a warm and welcoming community that understands the needs of all learners. Relationships between pupils and all staff members are based upon mutual respect and understanding. Pupils speak warmly about their teachers and helpers and the range of experiences on offer. They have high self esteem, are caring and understand their own needs and the needs of others. Displays around the school are bright and prominent and support the development of learning and distinctive Christian attributes. RE is well led, following the revised Kent Agreed Syllabus, and planned with both Attainment Targets identified in planning and teaching. There is variety in the learning opportunities offered. The strong support for this aspect of the curriculum has a positive impact on the distinctive Christian character of the school. Pupils are well developed socially, morally and culturally, but less so spiritually. Some pupils are developing spiritual awareness as individuals, but the majority less so than others. There is a need to develop opportunities for this to become more explicit and overt, through reflection and discussion, and reference to the distinctive Christian character promoted by the leadership.

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

Collective Worship is satisfactory with some elements of good practice. It is well planned and clearly important to the daily life of the school and to those who lead worship. All worship is distinctly linked to the Church's year and key festivals, and the church is also used for significant festivals in school time and on Sundays. Care is taken to provide a quiet, calm and worshipful environment. However opportunities for reflection, times of quiet have not yet been developed enough. Pupils enjoy singing and know the school prayer well. They could also be more involved and engaged in worship, for instance by writing and reading their own prayers. The school has already identified a need to raise awareness of including elements of the Anglican tradition into worship, including prayerful responses to the lighting of the candle. Currently staff do not attend worship on a daily basis. By reviewing current practices the school may also address ways to model the values of worship to pupils and address the low level disruption by some pupils. Opportunities need to be developed to develop reflection. It is important to give time for the consideration of searching questions. Pupils need to be provided with time to explore the relevance of worship in their own lives. There is a secure foundation and commitment upon which to build these developments.

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

The Headteacher articulates a clear Christian vision for the school and this is very evident in key promotional documentation and display. The parish and the school work together to provide good pastoral and spiritual care. Good relationships in the school are established and nurtured by the Headteacher who gives a strong lead in maintaining principles which promote the moral and social development of pupils. The core Christian character is clearly promoted. The staff is well supported in a lively, well resourced and stimulating environment that is clearly Christian. There is a clear strategic view about Church school improvement based upon good evaluation with an evidence base. The evaluation tool is clearly a shared document that identifies accurately areas for development. Links with the local Church, with governors and in the locality are good. The Incumbent supports the school well. Parents speak very highly of the leadership of the school, and value the close links with the Church. There are plans to develop further in engaging parents, families and the church community in the life of the school. These include the provision of opportunities for parents to share in school worship on occasions.