

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Oxon Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary,

Racecourse Lane,
Bicton Heath,
Shrewsbury
SY3 5BJ

Diocese: Lichfield

LA: Shropshire

Date of inspection: 31.10.2006

Date of last inspection: 24.09.2001

School's Unique reference number: 123502

Name of Headteacher: Mr Mark Rogers

Inspector's name & National Society number: Mrs Elaine Johns, 284

Context of the school

The school has 353 pupils on roll and serves a semi-rural area to the west of Shrewsbury. A small number of pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Summary Judgement

Oxon Church of England (C) Primary is a good church school.

The Headteacher gives very good leadership. He demonstrates clear commitment to the church school foundation.

Established strengths

- Relationships among all those involved with and in the school are outstanding. The School Council is an effective force in the democratic way the school functions.
- The links with Christ Church Shelton & Oxon have good impact on the daily life of the school and during special celebrations. The Priest-in-Charge is involved well with aspects of Religious Education teaching, regularly leads worship and is an effective and supportive member of the governing body.
- The Governing Body has a strong Christian character. Members are ready to support, suggest, discuss and evaluate in promoting the Christian foundation of the school.
- The Headteacher communicates very effectively with the school community, including parents. In turn he listens well. This is evident in the sensitive manner in which he promotes the church school ethos.
- The team approach to the teaching of Christian principles is ably led by the co-ordinator for Religious Education and worship. Worship is planned with thought and is well orchestrated.
- The moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is excellent.

Focus for development

- Integrate the review of the SIAS toolkit alongside the established review cycle. Do this with input from all staff and the foundation governors, in order to endorse and promote further the collective vision for the embodiment of Christian principles and traditions.
- Take action on the suggestions for including a prominent focal point in the new entrance hall, giving impact and affirmation to the school's Christian foundation.

The impact of the distinctive Christian character of the school in meeting the needs of learners is good

Christian values are very evident in the relationships of all those at Oxon. Learners' moral and social development of is of a high order. Pupils show mutual respect, awareness and courtesy. They talk with concern about those who don't always get along, but know that issues will be dealt with fairly and in a caring manner. They show understanding of the need to help a variety of people less fortunate than themselves, for example the 'Christmas Child' appeal or raising funds for the local hospital 'Rainbow Ward'. A high priority is given to 'out of school' clubs - in an informal atmosphere more is learned about the value of working together, mutual encouragement and doing one's best. The School Council, with an 'executive committee', is well organised and a dynamic mechanism for innovation!

There is very good awareness of other cultures and faiths. Learners' cultural development is of particular note. Teaching in this area has a special focus in Arts Week when sensitive and dynamic work of high quality is produced throughout the school, most recently with a South American theme. Learners speak with excitement about differences and similarities in a range of cultures.

Spiritual development is good; it is evident in written work about other faiths, which is promoted 'from the heart' on occasions through the contribution of parents. Pupils of all ages produce sensitive written work. The current idea to enhance the entrance with a Christian symbol and focal point will give the opportunity to further encourage thought and reflection. Visits to church as part of curricular work, for example to learn about baptism, offer a range of opportunities for wonder and deeper thought so that pupils are able to relate to the Anglican tradition.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The effective planning for collective worship has been agreed by all involved and there is good co-operation about the themes and content. All staff aim to be sensitive to the Christian foundation of the school, often confirming that a particular approach is appropriate. Variety in the style, venue and leadership of worship has good impact on the learners. They recall bible stories and the messages from them. They enjoy singing and appreciate the meanings of words because of careful explanation, for example in the Lord's Prayer or the 'song of the week'.

Worship times in the hall or classroom often provide an opportunity to reflect, through music, image, symbol or prayer. A good range of artefacts is available, some being on display to promote comment and interest, some used more regularly, such as the candle to mark worship time as 'special'.

The Priest-in-Charge has a high profile in worship at both key stages, in school and in church for special festivals. She enjoys this work and the learners listen and respond well. Good ideas have been forthcoming regarding community and church involvement to enhance Christian worship, such as the making of cloths for the table in colours of the church's year so that Anglican artefacts are valued.

The leadership and management of the school as a church school are good

There is a high level of consultation, good communication and sound understanding between everyone involved with the school. The Headteacher promotes these characteristics very well and gives quality leadership. With a clear resolve to promote the Christian foundation of the school, he also shows sensitivity to the way in which learners come to know about aspects of the Christian faith and the Anglican tradition. Foundation and other governors are very supportive of the church foundation, often giving sound comment and advice drawn from their own work and life experiences. They assist effectively in the leadership of this church school. The Religious Education and Worship Co-ordinator is knowledgeable about the work in classes and in Collective Worship which contributes well to learners' understanding of faith. She encourages and fosters staff involvement. The school evaluates its work well and is now ready to include the review of the SIAS evaluation in its annual cycle, consulting with staff and governors on its content and using it as a powerful tool in the further development of this happy church school.