



Pells Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Diocese of Chichester

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

Inspection Report



Date of inspection:	18 th September 2009
Name of inspector:	Amanda Miller
NS inspector's number:	630
School address:	Landport Road Lewes East Sussex BN7 2SU
Unique reference number:	114536
Status:	Voluntary Controlled
Number on roll:	115
Age range of pupils:	4-11
LA:	East Sussex
Name of chair of governors:	Micheal Turner
Name of headteacher:	Kerri Burns
Date of previous inspection:	5 October 2006

The inspection of denominational education and collective worship in the school was carried out in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005

Description of the school

Pells Church of England Primary School was founded in 1896. It relocated to its present site in 2000. At that time the school was extended and refurbished to include the junior pupils.

The majority of the pupils attending the school live on the large housing estate in which the school is situated. The proportion of pupils with special needs and entitled to free school meals is higher than average.

The school has the following awards; silver healthy school award, global action award and a Parent Teacher Good Practice Award.

Summary judgement

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Error! Reference source not found. as a Church of England school are satisfactory.

The school works hard to promote a caring ethos. The school needs to maintain and build upon its good links with its parish church. It now needs to ensure that the pupils and their parents understand the distinctiveness of the school as a church school.

Grade: 3

Established strengths

- Collective worship is well organised and planned and pupils enjoy it.
- The school has good pastoral care systems in place and most pupils feel well cared for
- The school has developed good links to schools and churches in other countries.

Focus for development

- To ensure that pupils and their parents understand what it means to be part of a school that has a distinctive Christian character and how that impacts upon the pupils in the school
- To ensure that the effective collective worship systems are maintained during a period of significant staff change for both the school and diocese.
- To further develop the leadership and management as a church school so that all staff are inducted into and offered opportunities to contribute to its effectiveness.

The school meets the statutory requirement for Collective Worship	Yes
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The school, through its distinctive Christian character is satisfactory at meeting the needs of all its learners.

The school makes satisfactory provision to meet the needs of all its learners. Most groups feel valued and special. However, the most able pupils who find learning easiest and those who are at socio-economic disadvantage and entitled to free school meals make satisfactory progress because the school's provision for them is satisfactory. Pupils with special educational needs, English as an additional language and emotional needs are well cared for.

Spirituality is effectively developed through regular opportunities for reflection in acts of worship, and good links to the personal social aspects of learning. Moral development is encouraged through relevant themes in collective worship, participation in school council, their involvement in the development of golden rules. There is a want a word box which is intended to enable pupils to anonymously ask for help should the need arrive.

Relationships are good and mostly characterised by care and concern for others. Some younger pupils indicate that they did not feel that their worries about friendships were acted upon. There are some opportunities for older pupils to take on roles and responsibilities within the school. Pupils are encouraged to participate in after school clubs. The majority of pupils were not able to verbalise that the school had a distinctive Christian character and how that made their school special.

Grade: 3

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good.

Worship occupies an important place in the life of the school. Acts of worship have over the last three years been well planned and link to both the wider school curriculum and the Anglican tradition. Pupils regularly participate in collective worship be it at school or at the local church. The pupil survey of November 2008 and subsequent school council meeting indicate how the school has begun to address the need to evaluate acts of worship. The local incumbent has been taking a weekly act of collective worship and other governors have also been monitoring the quality of other school acts of worship. Pupils enjoy these acts of worship and particularly commented on the effective use of puppetry. The pupils are attentive and respectful during acts of collective worship. A cross and candles were used as effective focal points for reflection. The school observes the major festivals of the Anglican tradition and on significant occasions such as Harvest Festival the church is used for worship. Parents and pupils value these special services.

The school is sensitive to the beliefs and traditions of those of other faiths and the school has recently purchased a number of additional resources for the library so as to enable pupils to understand and value cultural and religious diversity. The school has been effective at developing community cohesion and the links to both France through a comenius project and that to Sri Lanka are praiseworthy. Acts of worship draw on these resources and acts of worship are effective at providing for the spiritual and moral development of all pupils

Grade: 2

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

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of Pells school, as a church school is satisfactory. The school has had a well established and fruitful relationship with the church of St John Castro. The school has also been supported by a well attended Christian after school club for pupils, parents and staff. There is at present some uncertainty as to the future links to the local church due to the retirement of the previous incumbent. In the interim the local curate and the relatively new headteacher are working together to try to maintain the good existing system. This situation needs to be resolved as soon as possible. The school documentation reflects the faith values of the Christian foundation and the collective worship policy is of especially good quality.

Most parents and pupils are not sufficiently aware of what is distinctive about a church school or what the impact of the school's status as a church school is.

The school's leaders and governing body have limited processes in place for self evaluation as a church school. Whilst the Diocesan self-evaluation tool has been used the information within it is somewhat out of date and in places incomplete. The school now needs to re-affirm its vision for the school as a church school and, in particular ensure the good links between the church and school continue and that all stakeholders are clear as to the distinct nature of a church school and the impact that has on the pupils. This should include both foundation and other governors and they should be responsible for promoting the Christian character of the school to further enrich the educational experience of the pupils.

Grade: 3