

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Pucklechurch Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Castle Road
Pucklechurch
Bristol
BS16 9RF

Diocese: Bristol

Local authority: South Gloucestershire
Dates of inspection: Monday, September 11th 2006
Date of last inspection: 20-23 June 2000
School's unique reference number: 109171
Headteacher: Mr David Forrester
Inspector's name and number: Mr Andrew Rickett 201

School context

Pucklechurch Church of England Primary School is a medium size school of 290 pupils. The majority of the pupils are White British. The school serves a catchment area of a number of surrounding villages. The headteacher took up his post at the beginning of this school year.

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

The ethos of Pucklechurch School is rooted in Christian values. These values are evident in the daily lives of all those working in the school community. Attitudes towards teaching and learning are positive which creates an environment where children succeed. The new headteacher and governors are committed to seeking ways to further improve the school's existing strong Christian mission.

Established strengths

- Relationships at all levels are based on care and respect
- Children have very positive attitudes towards learning
- Provision for personal development is good

Focus for development

- Identify priorities for taking forward the Christian mission through the completion of a self-evaluation process
- Strengthen links between the school and church communities
- Involve governors in monitoring the impact of Christian values on both the academic and personal development of children

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

A sense of care and respect in all relationships encourages positive attitudes towards learning and creates an environment where children feel happy and secure. Children speak of the enjoyment they get from their lessons and the high level of support they receive from the teaching staff. This is a significant factor in the very good progress which children make and contributes towards the attainment of good standards by the time children leave the school. The school is particularly good at ensuring that children of all abilities have the opportunity to succeed. For example, in an RE lesson differentiated work meant that all children were able to access and become engaged in the task. The School Council makes an important contribution to the life of the school. Its decisions are taken seriously and have a wide effect on the quality of the learning environment. There are outstanding elements. The

emphasis on moral and personal responsibility is very high and this has a marked impact on how the children treat each other. Christian values are intrinsic in all these relationships and children are encouraged to accept and acknowledge differences and tolerate the views of others.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship is an important element in the school's Christian witness. Children enjoy acts of worship when they are led by stimulating leaders and in which they have an active involvement. Worship plays a central part in promoting an understanding of the Christian values on which this school is firmly based. It is well planned and follows themes which are relevant to the children's lives. For example, a series of acts of worship at the start of the school year explored the concept of new beginnings and used bible stories to illustrate how life moves on and change needs to be embraced. Children are often involved in worship where they may be asked to discuss an issue with a partner before sharing their response with the rest of the school. To build on the existing positive attitude towards worship, children could be encouraged to become more involved through the regular reading of their own prayers. Worship is mainly Christian in character but also follows broad themes which explore relationships and humankind's place in the world. Most children can recite the Lord's Prayer and can understand the significance of the Christian symbols used in worship. There are times of quiet reflection and circle time provides more intimate opportunities to experience a sense of spiritual wonder.

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

The new headteacher and the governors are quickly developing a clear vision for how they would like to take forward the Christian mission of the school. The commitment to live according to Christian values is strong. This is underpinned in all that the school does and through a process of self evaluation the school should be able to identify priorities that will enable them to develop further. Governors support the school effectively because they recognise that every child matters and are committed to providing opportunities for development of the whole child. They understand the need to implement monitoring procedures in Religious Education in order to raise standards. There are links with the local church community. The incumbent is well known to the children and adult staff. He regularly leads collective worship and is involved with other aspects of school life. Both he and the new headteacher are eager to strengthen these links. Parents feel that the school is a special place which carefully nurtures their children in a loving environment. All of this combines to create a school which has a tangible family feel.