

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Quethiock Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Quethiock
Liskeard
Cornwall
PL14 3SQ

Diocese: Truro

Local Authority: Cornwall
Date of inspection: 23rd January 2008
Date of last inspection: November 2001
School's Unique Reference Number: 112028
Headteacher: Mr MarkAndrew Dearden
Inspector's name and NS number: Mr Chris Williamson 290

School context

Quethiock School is a small rural school with 85 children on roll. It serves the village of Quethiock and the surrounding rural area. There are 20% of the children on the Special Needs Register. 28% of the children are from ethnic minority groups and 5% are entitled to free school meals. There have been significant changes to the membership of the governing body during the last year.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Quethiock School as a Church of England school are outstanding

Christian values and attitudes pervade all aspects of Quethiock School resulting in a strong sense of belonging. This, together with the effective leadership of the headteacher and the strong partnership with the church, makes the school outstanding.

Established strengths

- The creative basis from which the school derives its teaching and learning programmes which enable Christianity and its values to be at the heart of all lessons
- A strong sense of belonging, promoted by Christian community values
- Consistently high standards in RE which are enhanced by the development of the creative curriculum

Focus for development

- To continue to develop strategies to formally monitor and evaluate the school as a church school
- To clarify the strategic view of the role of the governors in a church school and hence to develop strategies for improvement
- To explore the purpose of worship and encourage children's increased participation in the development of collective worship

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

Children feel valued and special. Children enjoy school and demonstrate a mutual respect for one another. In particular, the older children care for the younger ones and the playground buddy system works well. The school's Christian character is a major factor in ensuring that children feel secure, happy and confident. Christian values have a significant impact both on children's personal development and on their learning. Much emphasis is placed on celebrating individual achievements and rewarding children's work. Healthy lifestyles are strongly encouraged. Children's spiritual development, rooted in Christian values, is

enhanced by the creative curriculum. Children's behaviour is excellent and children indicate that they are treated with justice, equality and respect. Children have a good understanding of right and wrong and are able to discuss their own actions and those of others in a clear and thoughtful manner to resolve conflict fairly. Children's moral development is enhanced by the Christian value of forgiveness, allowing the children to make a fresh start. The school's caring Christian ethos supports excellent relationships in the school. Staff and children work collaboratively and cooperatively and this reflects the Christian values of the school. The children benefit from a very wide range of activities and clubs. Children know that their views are taken seriously and they respect the views of each other. The school council is particularly effective. Excellent quality displays enhance religious education and other learning. The Christian status of the school is clearly displayed in many ways around the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Collective worship, which is distinctively Christian, is a central part of the life of the school. Children have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding during the course of a series of acts of worship because the school has planned collective worship according to weekly themes. Major church festivals are included in this planning and are celebrated in a variety of ways, both in and out of church, and often linked to work in school. Children play a role in influencing themes and styles of worship. Acts of worship are informally evaluated. The Christian values promoted in collective worship, which children are actively encouraged to embrace, have a positive impact on the lives of the children. Children enjoy listening, respond enthusiastically and sing especially well during acts of worship. They also enjoy participating in a variety of activities which include reading, drama, prayer, reflection and music. The Year 6 leavers' service, which the children prepare and organise, demonstrates their full understanding of worship as a central part of their lives and the importance of worship with the parent community. A wide range of children attend the popular 'JAM' ('Jesus And Me') club which enables children to develop a growing understanding of what it means to be a Christian. The school creates a culture where children feel safe and able to share their views confidently showing mutual respect and understanding of others, regardless of belief. Children are excellent at reflecting on questions posed in collective worship and sharing their ideas in a thoughtful and intelligent manner. Children are introduced to, and learn about, a variety of Christian traditions, for example in the range of songs and hymns. Children appreciate the weekly visits of the parish priest to lead collective worship. The priest also provides support and direction to the school. Children's experience of worship is further enhanced by a variety of visitors such as the local Methodist minister, a Free Church member and the 'JUMP' team. Children have also benefited from visitors from overseas, for example children were particularly interested by Father Umzi from South Africa who explained the variety and importance of worship in a different culture. Children have developed an understanding that Anglicanism is part of a wider community, for example by joining with others to sing in Truro Cathedral with the cathedral choir. Links with the parish church are good. The school participates in the major church festivals held in church. The children have also helped the church to rewrite their information booklet. Children take part in the School's Remembrance Day service which is held at the village war memorial on 11th November at 11am when they lay their wreath and are joined by members of the village. A representation from the school is also present at the village's service of remembrance on Remembrance Sunday.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

Children enjoy religious education (RE). Standards are higher than average, with most children achieving above age related expectations. Children are making significant progress. Lessons are well planned with effective differentiated activities and enhanced by the school's creative curriculum. In all lessons observed, a wide range of teaching and learning styles were being used to engage, stimulate and challenge the children who demonstrated a clear knowledge and understanding. Assessment data is used effectively to guide teachers' planning and children's learning. Children behave extremely well. They readily contribute to discussions. Children recognise and show respect for the beliefs of others and speak

confidently about their own beliefs. They enjoy RE and see the relevance of RE to their own lives. Children are able to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally in most lessons as a result of the planned opportunities in RE. Children have a very good understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican tradition. Most stakeholders appreciate that RE is a priority in the life of the school. RE receives appropriate curriculum time, is well resourced, staffed and is monitored effectively.

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

The headteacher has a clear vision for the school ensuring that the strong Christian ethos pervades all aspects of the school. The use of prayer is also a strong feature of the school. Some governors are informally encouraging, monitoring and challenging the school to realise its distinctive Christian vision. The headteacher and governors recognise the need to clarify the strategic role of governors of a church school. The headteacher and governors also recognise the need to develop strategies to improve the school as a church school, including developing formal systems of evaluation. Staff feel confident and comfortable about their part in sharing and developing the school's ongoing vision. Staff have received some training on the development of church schools which has enabled them to strengthen children's understanding of the Christian religion in other cultures. Children are involved in evaluating the school's progress through activities such as the school council and through circle time. The school has been developing and improving its level of communication with parents and recognises the need to continue to do so, including involving parents in formally evaluating the progress of the school as a church school. The school enjoys highly effective and productive links with the local church. Strong support is provided by the parish priest. Children appreciate the occasional participation of members of the church community in school acts of worship. Good links also exist with the local community, for example children sing at local old people's homes and give concerts with other organisations in aid of charities, for example 'Save the Children'. Children enjoy participating in the local horticultural show. The school also presents work which reflects the Christian character of the school at the horticultural show.