

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **The Richard Crosse Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

Crawley Lane  
Kings Bromley  
Burton on Trent  
Staffordshire  
DE13 7JE

#### **Diocese: Lichfield**

LA: Staffordshire

Date of SIAS Inspection: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

Date of last inspection: July 2001

School's Unique Reference Number: 124338

Headteacher: Mr Paul J Lovern

Inspector: Revd Huw D Bishop 344

#### **School Context**

The Richard Crosse CE (A) School is a small village primary school with 112 pupils on roll. Nearly all pupils are from white backgrounds and there is a wide social mix. Its popularity and success attracts pupils from well beyond the local area, but it is very much representative of the village community it serves. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is 1% and there is 1 student with a statement of special educational needs.

#### **Summary Judgement**

##### **The Richard Crosse CE (A) Primary School is an outstanding Church school.**

Christian values underpin and permeate its work within a very close and well established local community. It is well led, and supported strongly by the Parish Church. Pupils are happy and secure, and thrive through their enjoyment of the range of spiritual, educational, social and cultural experience that the school offers.

#### **Established Strengths**

- Excellent and imaginative leadership by a dedicated Headteacher who creates an ethos which is valued and celebrated by pupils, parents, staff and governors alike.
- Very strong care and nurture that is given to all pupils, staff and parents within the clear framework of the Christian faith, where all feel able to share their opinions within a caring and supportive learning environment.
- The dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of the Parish Church family which celebrates the presence of its Church school, and seeks every opportunity to promote a pro-active partnership with the school.

#### **Focus for Development**

- Introduce the use of suitable aspects of Anglican liturgy, and particularly The Holy Eucharist into school worship
- Provide further regular practical opportunities for pupils to supplement their knowledge, and gain experience of other world faiths, beliefs and practices.

#### **The school, through its distinctive Christian character, meets the needs of all learners in an outstanding way.**

The Christian ethos is very strong and Christian values permeate all that the school seeks to achieve. All pupils feel very valued and special within the strong and close community of Richard Crosse School. There is a very real commitment to the nurture of the whole child and this is clearly reflected in the school aims and is seen in practice. The school's strong foundation effectively promotes excellent spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils are confident, polite and happy. Good

opportunities and encouragement for pupils to support charitable activities result in their development as active and effective citizens. The atmosphere throughout the school is very calm and purposeful, and pupils' achievement is recognised and celebrated at every level. The school's distinctive Christian character is clearly evident on approaching and entering the building, and is also seen through symbols and displays in the classrooms. The school uses the Parish Church for seasonal festival worship, and the parish is very keen to build further on this relationship in as many ways as possible. **This is a very real Christian family school at the heart of the village community.**

**The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.**

The school provides daily collective worship for all pupils and this is central to school life. Worship is an effective whole school occasion which contributes well to pupil' spiritual, social, moral and cultural development. This is viewed very positively by pupils, and is led by the Headteacher and other staff, with visitors from local churches and communities also leading worship on regular occasions. The Vicar of the parish is a regular visitor to the school, as well as leading worship. His pastoral care extends to the whole school community and this is greatly valued. Pupils are respectful in the way they assemble for worship. There is a two year themed programme for worship. Story, prayer and reflection on identified themes relate to the Bible, Christian belief and seasons of the Church's year. Christian symbols, lighted candles and music contribute effectively to an appropriate and reverent atmosphere, so that pupils are able to reflect on God. An identified Governor is responsible for monitoring Worship and Religious Education and this ensures that the Governing Body is fully aware of issues relevant to the school's spiritual life. Pupils also worship at the Parish Church for a variety of services. As well as during the term, some services take place on Sundays and other recognised Holy Days. As pupils come to the end of their time at the school, they are presented with a Bible to remind them of all that the school has sought to nurture in them. A newly formed Worship sub-committee of the Governing Body discusses spiritual issues, and ways of promoting further the Christian ethos of the school.

**The effect of Religious Education is outstanding.**

Standards are well above average in pupils' abilities to understand religion and in their abilities to discuss key ideas and concepts. Pupils' attitude to Religious Education is positive and they are inspired to learn by imaginative teaching. ***One observed lesson was an example of excellent practice in every respect.*** Religious Education has high status in the school and is integral to the spiritual development of all pupils. Planning was outstanding and the teaching activities were fully differentiated and enabled children to make excellent progress. Curriculum plans support the Diocesan Syllabus and commitment to the subject is reflected in resource provision, scrutiny of work and a developing monitoring of teaching and learning. Teaching styles reflecting pupil's learning styles, and assessment for learning principles were well evidenced in the three observed lessons. Formal assessment is developing and is a key issue on the School Improvement Plan, but pupils are able to articulate their knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity well. Other world faiths are included in the learning programme, and pupils visit some places of worship as part of their work. The school successfully promotes Religious Education as an important subject and teaching is interesting, well planned and made relevant to the children's lives as well as linking with other curriculum subjects including Personal, Social and Health Education. Pupils make good progress and speak confidently about their learning in Religious Education and how it contributes to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

**The leadership and management of the school as a Church School are outstanding.**

The school's clear vision and commitment to pupil's overall development stem from the focussed aims of a very able, caring and dedicated headteacher who is very highly regarded by his pupils. These aims are successfully implemented by his teaching colleagues with the support of a very knowledgeable and committed Governing Body. *An excellent relationship exists between the school and the Parish Church family, and this is passionately re-enforced by the Parish Priest.* Foundation and Parent Governors know the school very well, and are starting to challenge the school effectively as a Church school and work in a real partnership with the Headteacher. Parents believe that the distinctive Christian ethos has a positive impact on all pupils, and this element is valued so highly that some families travel long distances to enable their children to be part of this rich heritage. *Teachers and support staff work in harmony to ensure the success and development of each child, and examples were observed where the pupils sought advice and guidance from adults other than teachers.* A Christian Club for pupils is led by Governors, and there is a strong representative attendance by pupils at this meeting. Pupils leave this school as well balanced and caring Christian individuals ready to embrace the next stage of their journey.

SIAS report January 2007 The Richard Crosse Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School Burton on Trent Staffordshire DE13 7JE