

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Scaford Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

School Lane  
Scaford  
Melton Mowbray  
Leicestershire  
LE14 4DT

#### **Diocese: Leicester**

LA: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006

Date of last inspection: 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2001

School's Unique Ref. No: 120156

Name of Head teacher: Mrs Irene Thompson

Inspector's name (with N.S. No): Mrs Diane Wright (No: 169)

### **Context**

Scaford is a popular village school of sixty pupils, fifty per cent of whom are from out of catchment. Almost all are from white British families. There is a higher than average number of pupils with special educational needs, with four pupils statemented. The limited accommodation has been completely refurbished in recent years and a new resources room has been built. The staff work hard to overcome the constraints of the building and the lack of a hall. The school meets its over-arching aim "In the heart of your community, a good school."

### **Summary Judgment**

**The distinctiveness and effectiveness of this school as a Church of England school are good.**

It provides a Christian ethos in which all pupils are valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

### **Established strengths**

- Strong links with the church, parents and community
- Well behaved, confident pupils with a positive attitude to school
- Active involvement of pupils in the life of the school

### **Focus for development**

- Formalise the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship by staff and governors
- Broaden pupils experience and understanding of other faiths and cultures
- Introduce a Christian symbol in a prominent position for all to see on arrival

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

The school provides a safe, secure environment where pupils can learn and develop. Pupils enjoy coming to school, enjoy working with their teachers and make good progress. Very good support is given to those with special educational needs, indeed some parents choose the school because of this. The school values pupils' achievements (behaviour, attitudes, good work) through reward systems and a weekly celebration assembly. Pupils have a clear understanding of how they should behave and feel any issues can be resolved with the help of friends and staff. Relationships across the school are very good. Personal, spiritual, moral and social development is good. Experience of other cultures and faiths needs broadening. Parental views are sought through questionnaires. The school council provides a forum for pupils and they feel their views are valued and can bring change, such as recent playground developments. There is a wide range of clubs, some of which are run by children. Pupils are consulted on which charities to support, well understand the reasons for fundraising and enjoy taking part. The school will be involved in raising funds to refurbish St Eglewins Church and to create two rooms within it for school and community use, thus solving some of the school's space problems. The headteacher is keen to involve the pupils in a project to produce a Christian symbol to emphasise the school's foundation.

**The impact of collective worship on the school is good.**

A class base is used for assembly and collective worship, since there is no hall. Diocesan themes are used for planning collective worship, supplemented by topics developed by visiting worship leaders. The older pupils efficiently prepare the class base for worship. Pupils have the opportunity to participate by answering questions, expressing thoughts, playing roles or reading aloud. They respond appropriately, by listening and joining in with singing and prayer. Some prayers are in response to pupil suggestions from the prayer board. They enter, wait and leave in an orderly manner. Pupils are happy to talk about the stories they have heard and clearly enjoy the regular visits of the Methodist minister and local vicar. Gathering together is a special part of the day for them. One pupil said "It helps me if I am in a bad mood" and another "You learn a lot, and it is fun." Major festivals are celebrated in St Eglewins Church and the Methodist Chapel, so parents can join pupils. The distinction between collective worship and assembly, as defined in the Collective Worship policy, should be more clearly articulated to pupils. The headteacher and coordinator monitor and evaluate collective worship through comments on the impact of themes and reactions of pupils and visitors. The coordinator is aware of the need to formalise this process and is planning to involve the governing body more actively.

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

The staff form a strong effective team, led by the headteacher. The Christian ethos and the values that flow from it underpin all aspects of school life. There is a strong partnership between the church and the school, with the school holding services in St Eglewyns and the church receiving support from staff and children. The school also visits other local churches and the Methodist Chapel for their special services. Both church and school are enthusiastic about their partnership in the future development of St Eglewyns. Events organised by the active parents association enhance school life, whilst providing additional funds for projects. All areas identified for action in the last Section 23 inspection have been addressed. Parents are very happy with the school and value its Christian ethos. Pupils enjoy being at school and are proud to be part of it. The governing body is active and supportive and mindful of the Christian foundation.