

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Selling Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School,**

The Street

Selling

Faversham

Kent ME13 9RQ

**Diocese: Canterbury**

Local Authority: Kent

Dates of inspection: 17 September 2007

Date of last inspection: October 2001

School's Unique Reference Number:118650

Headteacher: Mr. Ian Fidge

Chair of Governors: Mr. S. Harding

Inspector's name and number: Tony Fiddian-Green. 383

### **School context**

Selling Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School has 149 pupils. It is a small rural school in North Kent, and is situated in the countryside near Faversham. The school enjoys good levels of involvement and help from the local community. The majority of pupils are of white/British heritage, and the total number on roll has risen substantially over the last six years. Standards in the most recent national tests in English, mathematics and science were well above the national average.

### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Selling as a Church of England school are good**

Selling Church of England Primary School is a good Church school, with several outstanding features.

### **Established strengths**

- There is a strong Christian, family ethos in the school.
- The care and concern shown for all members of the school community is outstanding and reflects its Christian ethos very well.
- The planning and leading of worship is outstanding.
- The headteacher's leadership and management are outstanding.

### **Focus for development**

- Continue to develop systems for pupils to participate in and evaluate the acts of worship.

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

Selling school makes good provision in meeting the needs of all its pupils, being firmly grounded in its Christian foundation. Pupils are confident that they can turn to adults in the school for help if necessary. They appreciate all that the school gives them, and in discussions several spoke about how they valued the education they are receiving. They were unanimous in their praise for the school and all said that they would strongly recommend it to others. "Wonderful things happen at Selling school," wrote one pupil. The school celebrates pupils' achievements in both behaviour and study, and there are weekly award assemblies, recognising good work and effort. The Christian purpose of the school is made clear in its policies and documents, including the prospectus. It is also clear from the displays in all classrooms and general areas, with good work showing some of the themes of religious education studied recently. Spiritual and moral development is good. Acts of worship always give time for reflection and prayer. Displays round the school reflect an appreciation of the natural world and discussion with pupils revealed their keen interest in

preserving the world's environment. Expectations for pupils' good behaviour are very high. Relationships are outstanding and the school receives a very strong and clear example from the headteacher in this. As a result, pupils' behaviour is very good and they are confident and able to give and hold their opinions clearly. Parents appreciate the school's Christian, caring and family atmosphere and are enthusiastic in their support for the school. Older pupils act as mentors for younger ones and help to resolve any problems that may arise. Above all else, pupils are clearly very happy at school and enjoy their time there to the full.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**

The impact of the school's worship on its community is good, and there are some outstanding aspects. However, the lack of fully implemented systems for pupils' participation and evaluation of worship reduces the impact overall. The school has already begun to put these systems in place but they have a way to go yet. Worship is clearly central to the school's life and the written planning is excellent. Much hard work has been done by the leader in order to make such cohesive forward plans. Some adults attend, although not all staff were present. Much thought has been given to the weekly themes and the Biblical links to go with them, and there is a rich fund of stories to support the themes. The quality of the acts of worship observed was very good. Pupils were quiet, attentive and interested. Time was given for prayer, music and reflection. The planned themes are very well linked to everyday life in the school. For example, with 'Friends' as the theme, pupils were asked to make sure that no-one was lonely in school, and to share their smiles with everyone. The parish church is used termly for services such as Harvest, Christmas and the special leavers' service in the summer. The links to the parish church are good even though the village has been without an incumbent for eighteen months. Several local ministers come to school to lead worship and they are well known to the school community. Spiritual and moral development play a large part in corporate worship and they are good. There is time for quiet reflection with a cross, a candle and the theme for the week as focal points. Pupils know and use the school prayer, asking God to be present at their worship. They always use the Lord's Prayer and know it by heart. They sing well and enjoy the hymns and songs.

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

Leadership and management are good overall, with some very good strengths. The headteacher provides very effective leadership, drawing full co-operation from staff and pupils alike. All staff are fully committed and play an active part in all that the school does. The capacity for very good self-evaluation by the school is evident in its documents and procedures in preparation for inspection. Parents are consulted fully and the work of the school is carefully evaluated. As a result the action plans are well informed. The school takes an active part in village life by supporting events such as the summer fete, and by helping at functions provided for the elderly people of the village. All members of the school are valued and through the very effective leadership of the headteacher they are fully involved in all that the school offers. As a result, the ethos of this Church school is strongly Christian and fulfils the aims of its foundation document very well.

Parents are particularly pleased with all the school does for their children and they are fulsome in their praise.

The school governors are very active in their support for the school and are frequently to be seen in and around the school.