

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

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

Henson Way  
Sharnford  
Hinckley  
LE10 3PN

#### **Diocese: Leicester**

Local Authority: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 28<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> April/1<sup>st</sup> May

Date of last inspection: 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2004

School's Unique Ref. No: 120157

Name of Head teacher; Mrs Kath Allsopp

Inspector's name (with N.S. No): Mrs Mary Lawson (No. 167)

#### **Context**

Sharnford Church of England Primary School is a very small primary school with 60 pupils on roll, in 3 classes. The school is federated with All Saints Church of England Primary school, Sapcote. The Governing Body is responsible for both schools. The school has close links with both the local Anglican Church, St Helen's, and with the Methodist Church in the village. The school has excellent parental support.

#### **Summary Judgment**

**The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Sharnford CE Primary as a Church of England school are good.**

Sharnford CE Primary School provides a Christian ethos in which all the children are well known and valued as individuals. The children are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential. Relationships across the school are good, based on clear Christian principles of care and concern for each other.

#### **Established strengths**

- A very strong family atmosphere, where the children are loved, supported, challenged and valued
- Strong links with the Christian community in the village and with both ministers
- Well planned collective worship, placed at the heart of the school day providing a strong contribution to the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Children have a very positive attitude to school, actively involved in the life of the school, supporting each other

#### **Focus for development**

- To incorporate strategies for monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship, particularly with the children
- To ensure the theme for the week is known by the children other than orally
- To further develop children's understanding of and experience of Anglican practice
- To ensure all members of the governing body contribute to the evaluation of the school as a Church of England school.

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

Sharnford Primary School is a caring Christian community that places importance upon the relationships necessary for effective learning. The very good behaviour of the pupils and attitudes to learning are exemplified in their strong moral and social understanding, which is attributable to the Christian ethos of the school. Pupils are encouraged to develop empathy for the needs of others. The School Council reflected this. They speak of the importance of being a church school 'because it is peaceful and where we all look after each other'. There is an emphasis on the 'whole child' and treating every child as an individual. There is a calm working atmosphere which permeates throughout the school and displays and artefacts around the school enhance its distinctiveness. There are strong links with St Helens' church though the school does not use the church building for services, however groups of children do visit the church and also the Methodist Church in the village. Both ministers are actively involved in the life of the school and the Anglican minister takes collective worship on a weekly basis.

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

Worship is central to the life of the school and has a good impact on children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It has a strong Christian focus through the use of Bible stories and Christian symbols and there are opportunities for reflection through prayer and music. Worship is well planned by the co-ordinator and includes the SEAL themes which link well with those suggested by the diocesan board. Worship is led by school staff and weekly visits from the Anglican minister. They include some participation by the children. Pupils talk enthusiastically about their participation in Church services for major festivals which helps them to grow in understanding and have a positive attitude to collective worship. However, opportunities to further develop the children's understanding of the range of Anglican traditions are limited. Although there is a clear plan for collective worship, staff are free to deviate from the theme to accommodate local, national or world issues. Pupils spoke freely and enthusiastically about their times of worship, however greater use of displays will enhance their understanding of, and participation in worship. The School Council spoke of worship as 'the time to pray, to speak to God and this is important for all of us'. Some monitoring of collective worship takes place, however, the co-ordinator needs time to evaluate the impact of collective worship, particularly with the children.

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

Christian values are implicit in the life of the school and the headteacher and assistant headteacher have had a strong impact on the Christian ethos of the school. There is clear vision and purpose which is well supported by the governing body, especially by the governor who has responsibility for RE and collective worship, who is keen to enhance the spiritual development of the children. Both the assistant headteacher, (who is the RE and collective worship coordinator) and this governor are very enthusiastic and keen to develop worship further. Together they have evaluated the school as a Church of England school but there needs to be wider contributions from the governing body.