

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Silverstone Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School**

Green Lane,  
Silverstone.  
Northamptonshire.  
NN 12 8 ES

#### **Diocese: Peterborough.**

Local authority: Northamptonshire  
Dates of inspection: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007  
Date of last inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2001  
School's unique reference number: 121990  
Headteacher: Mrs J.Letts.  
Inspector's name and number: Reverend Morey Gompertz. 507

#### **School context**

Silverstone CEVC Junior School is situated within this south Northamptonshire village in close proximity to the well known motor racing circuit. Although the junior and infant schools operate on separate sites they have been federated since 2004. and are led by one Head teacher and managed by one Governing Body who were appointed at the time of the Federation. The Junior school is a church school while the Infants school is not. Pupils are drawn from Silverstone and the neighbouring villages of Abthorpe and Wappenham. Currently 86 pupils are on roll of whom boys outnumber girls by two to one.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Silverstone Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School as a Church of England school are good.**

The Head and local incumbent are totally committed to securing the Christian character of the school and are leading the school community in initiating changes. The children feel valued and their gifts and talents are recognised. The school is developing a culture of continuous improvement through individual target setting, pupil tracking with self evaluation. Regular and valuable contribution to the worship and spiritual life of the school is made by members of the congregations in the village and surrounding area. The pupils' personal, moral , spiritual and cultural development is good.

#### **Established strengths**

- Relationships within the community and between the school and its stakeholders are very good.
- Pupils display a very caring and attentive attitude to each other.
- A calm and purposeful atmosphere pervades the school
- The Head has initiated many developments which show signs of making considerable impact on the life of the whole school community.

#### **Focus for development**

- Maintain the representation of Foundation Governors on the Governing Body.
- Review and strengthen the role of the Governing Body in the monitoring and evaluation of the school as a Church of England school.
- Develop through training a consistency of approach in leading worship.
- Develop a greater awareness of the world wide character of the church.

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

The school's commitment to the needs of all its pupils is evident in the documentation, displays and planning. Christian values of forgiveness respect and tolerance are evident both in what is said and practised. Pupils display moral and just attitudes and parents comment on their children's sense of right and wrong which they attribute greatly to the influence of the school. Links with the parents through contact, newsletters and questionnaires have developed through the past two years. Pupils are confident and articulate their enthusiasms about lessons, their ideas and suggestions especially through the School Council formed last September. Parents speak highly of the significant progress made by their children over the past two years. The children are aware of their individual targets and describe their lessons with enthusiasm. Extra curricular activities are increasing and the school has increased its provision of residential opportunities to ensure that every child is offered a residential each year. The development of self reliance and the extra dimensions of learning so offered is appreciated by parents and children. The school celebrates the children's all round success through its Achievement Assembly on Fridays. The children display a co-operative attitude in their playtimes. At least three football games were in progress at one time on the playground with no apparent disagreements.

The opportunity to share in teaching and staff training has been enthusiastically taken up by Canon Bridget, the local Anglican incumbent and was mentioned with appreciation by both pupils and staff.

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

Collective worship is planned extensively and the Co-ordinator who is presently the Head has taken advice and used a great variety of resources. The Head presides over worship on both sites and so is restricted in the number of acts of worship she is able to lead. The worship programme within the Junior school does not indicate sufficiently clearly that there is a consistency of approach in all acts of worship and there is no indication of training to ensure that this is happening. The children speak appreciatively of the worship activities especially those such as drama in which they can actively participate. The guided meditation opportunity offered within the act of worship observed was impressive. Every child and adult engaged in it as also the opportunity to share ideas afterwards. One child said, " I like to use my imagination now and later on when I'm an artist I can use all those ideas I had". Emphasis is laid on the "different " atmosphere within the Hall during the act of worship from the times when it is used for other purposes like eating dinner. A cross and a candle are prominent on the table in front of the hall while displays of work on the theme for the half term form a back cloth behind the worship leader. The school worships in the local church at least twice each half term as well as special seasonal services such as Harvest, Christmas activities and Easter. The local incumbent has taught each class about the different kinds of prayer and led staff training to help staff enable the children to write their own prayers and graces. Children, staff and parents speak about these appreciatively. The parents were enthusiastic about the impact of worship on their children both in school and in church. One mother who professed herself "not religious" spoke about the answers her eight year old had given to her when she asked him about services in church and school. He described a feeling of "being at peace," and a sense of " being happy" and she felt this would come back to him later in life. The process of the regular monitoring and evaluation of collective worship amongst the staff has begun and should develop with more active participation by Governors and include recording the pupils` thoughts about the impact of worship. The very strong links with the local church do not yet acknowledge in worship the enrichment of the world wide Anglican communion. The process of learning traditional prayers and responses has begun and should continue to be developed.

**The effectiveness of the leadership and management of Silverstone Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior the school as a church school is good.**

The personal Christian faith of the Head teacher is demonstrated in her commitment to giving the school a clear Christian focus. It has sustained her efforts to improve the school as a Christian school with the many developments which she has initiated in the short time of her headship. Under her leadership the school has initiated a culture of improvement through self evaluation and effective monitoring systems are being put in place to ensure that these impact the learning and development of all aspects of the school community.

The challenges of leading two communities of different status on two different sites are evident. The vision of the Junior school not only as a Christian school but also as a Church of England school will become more clearly established with all the staff, Governors and community sharing this vision. This will take time and would be greatly enabled by the strengthening of the representation of the Foundation Governors on the Governing Body where a vacancy exists. Many of the strategies which will secure this shared vision have been put in place by the Head teacher with the positive support of the incumbent but their impact is not yet evident in the overall monitoring of the school as a church school. Putting this in place will lead to greater security in the development of Silverstone Junior school as an excellent Church of England School.

SIAS report January 2007 Silverstone CEVC Junior school. Silverstone NN 12 8 ES.