

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Silverton Church Of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Silverton  
Exeter  
EX5 4JY

#### Diocese: Exeter

Local authority: Devon  
Dates of inspection: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
Date of last inspection: October 2002  
School's unique reference number: 113365  
Headteacher: Mr Heath Nickels  
Inspector's name and number: Roger Guest 206

#### School context

This school of 125 pupils serves the large village of Silverton and the surrounding rural area. The vast majority of pupils are of White British origin but come from a wide range of socio economic backgrounds. The school organises classes with more than one year group in each class. It has a high proportion of pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Silverton Primary School as a Church of England school are Good

Silverton is a good Church school with a positive Christian character providing a caring environment for the educational development of pupils. The Christian values on which it is built provide pupils with a secure environment where staff, parents and pupils work together well.

#### Established strengths

- Very good relationships exist throughout the school community.
- The school supports charitable work in an exemplary manner.

#### Focus for development

- Develop clear formal strategies to monitor and challenge the school's effectiveness as a Church school.
- Record, monitor and evaluate collective worship.

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

Pupils enjoy school, are safe and secure in it and speak of their high regard for their teachers' care for them. Conflicts are rare and the school buddy system is appreciated and effective. The use of the 'worry box' is a further effective means of ensuring pupils' concerns are resolved. This makes pupils behave responsibly and give of their best. The Christian values the school promotes are exemplified by the school's excellent charity work in many areas. Moral decisions taken by pupils are implicitly based on Christian principles, which the school fosters. Teaching and other staff strongly support the Christian character of the school and provide effective role models for pupils. Pupils respond to this with great respect and positive attitudes towards school life. Staff participation in the Church holiday club strengthens the effect of the school's Christian example. The good relationships which exist between all staff and pupils result in very good behaviour. School documentation and displays support the school's Christian foundation. Pupils are proud of their school and their own achievements. The implicit Christian character provided by the school is the result of the school's holistic

approach to the curriculum whereby the school's Christian principles underlie the school's work effectively.

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

Pupils have a satisfactory understanding of the school's Christian values as they are reinforced through acts of worship. Pupils' experience of worship is largely through class worship which takes place three times a week. Pupils speak of these occasions as times during which they have the opportunity to reflect and enjoy silence. This space, created in the busy school day, enables them to contemplate the beauty and wonder of the intricacies of the natural world and offers them opportunity for spiritual development. However, many pupils say they prefer whole school worship because they have greater opportunity for participation. Parents value worship and participate when it takes place in the church. Opportunities for parents to attend worship in the school are very limited. Pupils' understanding of the Anglican tradition is satisfactory. It is developed through the pattern used in worship which is based on the Christian festivals and through occasional acts of worship held in the Church. Although worship is planned, it is not formally recorded, evaluated or monitored. There is therefore little evidence on which to judge the impact of worship on the pupils. The evidence from speaking to the pupils suggests that it is satisfactory. The school recognises the need to seek diocesan support in developing acts of worship.

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

Parents, governors and staff value the Christian family ethos, which the school promotes. The local vicar, whose support the school values greatly, is pivotal in supporting the Christian vision of the school. School and Church work well together with Foundation governors regularly reporting on the work of the school to the Parochial Church Council. There are also good spiritual, pastoral and mutually supportive links with the local Church. Foundation governors and school teaching staff are effective in promoting the Christian vision for the school. This vision is shared by the parent body, and pupils are thus aware of their position in a Christian community. School staff are committed to the Christian ethos of the school. The Christian character of the school is evident in documentation, display work and relationships. Parents have been consulted regarding the school's impact on their children and report favourably but the focus of consultation has not been from a Church school perspective. The informal evaluation procedures adopted by the school are effective in providing knowledge of the school's work. They are not however, primarily challenging its development as a Church school. As a result, a systematic and regular re evaluation of the school's effectiveness as a Church school has not taken place.