

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### Spetisbury (Hall & Sloper) Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

High Street  
Spetisbury  
Blandford Forum  
Dorset  
DT11 9DF

#### Diocese: Salisbury

Local authority: Dorset  
Dates of inspection: Thursday 28th September 2006  
Date of last inspection: July 2000  
School's unique reference number: 113826  
Headteacher: Mrs Sue Cutler  
Inspector's name and number: Tim Reynolds 237

#### School context

Spetisbury Primary is a small, country school south of Blandford in Dorset. It is part of the Blandford Schools' network which covers the town and surrounding countryside. All children are white, having English as a first language. This term the school achieves Primary status (previously First), having a Year 6 for the first time. Years 4, 5 & 6 are now housed in temporary buildings since the old buildings are soon to be developed.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Spetisbury Primary as a Church of England school are good

The school discharges its responsibilities as a Church school and in line with its Mission Statement. A distinctive and pleasant atmosphere pervades the school site. SMSC development is evident in the pupils' behaviour on the playground, in class, and in organised activities like concerts, art work and wall displays.

#### Established strengths

- Happy and enthusiastic pupils who intermix well and in a caring manner, effective witnesses of the school's Christian ethos.
- Collective worship warmly supported and approved of by the pupils; it has a clear impact on them.
- Well established links with the local church, the Rector, and the village.
- Enthusiastic parents who, by joining Friends of Spetisbury School (FOSS), give valuable support by raising funds, attending functions, assisting in school activities.

#### Focus for development

- Increased development of assessment of pupils' progress in RE.
- Increased monitoring by the RE subject leader of the content of lessons, and marking procedures.
- Governors' representative for RE (the Rector) to increase opportunities of monitoring when possible
- Invitations to parents to be included in all acts of worship

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

Relationships at all levels are caring, co-operative and considerate. The pupils are courteous, integrate well, work with enthusiasm and enjoy school time. Staff are constantly on hand to encourage and comfort, especially the dinner ladies who carry out their Responsibilities with firmness, understanding and humour. The environment is friendly and well used, and the pupils feel safe in it. They know that their worries and questions are dealt with seriously and sensitively. Pupils with special educational needs are cared for with

significant support, and fit into school life effortlessly. Bullying and discriminatory behaviour are not evident, but there are policies in place to deal with any incident that might arise. Social interaction with the local villages is keen, singing to the old people, hosting harvest teas, and inviting those in the surrounding area to Christmas and similar festivals.

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

The leader of Collective Worship has prepared well-planned initiatives with clear objectives. They include acts of worship around the Christian festivals, features on aspects of other religions, and stimuli for personal attitudes, reflection and behaviour. Acts of worship are taken by the Headteacher and other staff, and the Rector once a fortnight. Pupils sing well, listen and reflect, and some take part, i.e. by assisting in talks and reading prayers. In an act of worship observed, six pupils explored the mystery of a bag that revealed fruits for the theme of Harvest. The gym is the only possible place of worship (until the new hall is built), and some success is achieved (with a candle, a cross and appropriate music) in striving to create an atmosphere of worship. Pupils interviewed stated that they enjoyed the acts of worship, especially the singing and the stories, and they would miss it if it was withdrawn. They go to the church (next door) once a week. Parents are invited to attend the acts of worship in tune with Christian festivals, and the Celebration Assembly on a Friday, which praises all kinds of achievement by the pupils and ends with a short form of thanksgiving.

### **The effectiveness of the religious education is satisfactory**

Assessment of pupils' progress and actual understanding is only at most satisfactory. This must be addressed as a priority in order to achieve a safe judgement of effective teaching, and to help with future planning of the syllabus.

The newly-appointed subject leader has competent schemes of work based on the new Dorset RE syllabus to cover a two-year period throughout the school but teachers are also able to adapt provision to cater for individual pupil needs where appropriate. Good programmes of work are in place for the newly created Year 6. Books, equipment and Christian artefacts are in good supply, thanks partly to help from the Bishop Wordsworth's Trust. It is intended that pupils pay a visit to a mosque and a synagogue soon. Members of other religions are to be invited to visit the school.

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

The Headteacher, inspired by her own Christian vision of the school, has moulded a responsive and dedicated team of teachers and others stake-holders, having successfully overcome problems caused by past staffing difficulties. Parents approve strongly of the ethos of the school and are pleased that their children receive a good education with strong emphasis on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The governor with responsibility for Collective Worship and Religious Education gives his support to the Collective Worship by participation and observance. The recommendations of the Section 23 Inspection report (July 2000) have, except in one respect (RE assessment) have been fulfilled.

The members of the school's senior management team are aware of their responsibility to lead this good Church of England school, and they are constantly looking to improve all aspects of its Christian ethos.