

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **St Andrews Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Main Street  
Clifton Campville  
Staffordshire  
B79 0AP

#### **Diocese: Lichfield**

Local authority: Staffordshire  
Date of inspection: July 14<sup>th</sup> 2009  
Date of last inspection: September 12<sup>th</sup> 2006  
School's unique reference number: 124242  
Headteacher: Mrs Julie Bullous  
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Julie Moore 579

#### **School context**

St Andrews Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) School is a very small school of 59 pupils who mostly live in the surrounding rural area. Almost all pupils are White British and there are very few pupils whose first language is not English. Two years ago the school formed a federation with a nearby small village primary school and both schools share the same headteacher as well as other resources.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Andrews (Voluntary Controlled) Primary as a Church of England school are outstanding**

Everyone connected with this school shares a common aim which is to '*Learn, achieve and excel together*'. They are hugely successful at achieving this vision. The school provides an excellent range of experiences in a stimulating and exciting Christian environment that is happy, friendly, safe and secure. Underpinning every aspect of the school's life and work is a determination that Christian values drive the school forward, and it is outstanding at doing just that.

#### **Established strengths**

- Outstanding leadership of the headteacher, alongside high quality teamwork, ensures that everyone thrives and is nurtured within the firm Christian ethos of this school.
- Excellent links between the school and church families as well as with the local community.
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is enhanced very successfully by the richness and breadth of the whole curriculum.

#### **Focus for development**

- Improve the entrance to the school by having a cross in a prominent position so that everyone is immediately aware of the school's Christian character.
- Extend the opportunities for pupils to create and write their own prayers and give these a higher profile in the display areas of the school.

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

The individual uniqueness of every child is recognised and celebrated fully throughout every aspect of day-to-day life in this very small school. Christian values underpin the school's work very successfully and governors, clergy and senior managers are determined that every member of the school family, whatever their faith or belief, is fully included in this vision. Relationships are excellent and pupils of all ages and backgrounds have a highly developed sense of empathy for the needs of others. This is demonstrated very clearly in the ways in which pupils are courteous and caring towards each other, treating everyone as equals –

especially relevant as this school has a high proportion of pupils with special educational needs. During a recent Sports Day every pupil participated fully, trying very hard and achieving their personal best in a range of activities. Everyone was actively supported by parents, staff, governors and other members of the school and church families. This event successfully encouraged every pupil to develop a positive self-image and feeling of well-being within a truly Christian environment. An excellent occasion that demonstrates the high quality of this school's Christian ethos.

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

Worship has an important role in school life and the shared worship experiences have a positive impact on pupils' attitudes all round. This was aptly demonstrated by a group of pupils who, when asked about their worship, speedily identified a wide range of experiences that were memorable for them. As one pupil explained *'I find it really helpful that after a holiday we always talk about our golden rules'*. Further discussion elicited these rules are based on the Christian values of kindness towards others, honesty, good behaviour, helping others and caring for our environment. Without exception, pupils were very positive about worship, clear about Anglican traditions and the significance of prayer. There are some examples of pupils' own prayers around the school but not many, and this is a missed opportunity to demonstrate pupils' personal and spiritual growth through prayer. Worship leaders include staff, clergy and visitors all of which extend pupils' worship experiences successfully, as do the frequent opportunities to share in church worship with their family and members of the church and village communities.

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

The headteacher's leadership is outstanding. She leads her team very well indeed as they all work together rigorously and very effectively to maintain and refine the school's vibrant Christian ethos. Foundation governors are adept at challenging decisions, asking questions and monitoring the school's progress as they work collaboratively to continue to develop the school's Christian character. Shared training sessions mean that senior managers, staff and governors have full and complete agreement about the way forward. A very good example is the recent session when they tackled the revision of the school's Mission Statement. At the heart of the statement is the provision of a Christian environment in which pupils thrive and excel and which everyone decided is their first priority. However, governors decided to present the Mission Statement in a diagrammatic way so that it has a much stronger and clearer impact all round. Excellent links with the church, the local community and the wider national and world communities mean that this is a truly cohesive school and no-one is left out. What is missing is a clear message to visitors that St Andrews is a vibrant and active church school. The lack of a well positioned cross, or other religious symbol, in the entrance hall means that the school's true message is hidden away.

SIAS report July 2009. St Andrews Church of England (VC) Primary School, Main Street, Clifton Campville, Staffordshire. B79 0AP