

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Meriadoc Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School

Cranfield Road
Camborne
Cornwall
TR14 7PJ

Diocese: Truro

Local Authority: Cornwall

Date of inspection: 21st January and 22nd January 2008

Date of last inspection: March 2004

School's Unique Reference Number: 112006

Headteacher: Mrs Ruth Waterhouse

Inspector's name and NS number: Mr Chris Williamson 290

School context

St Meriadoc School has 197 children on roll and serves part of the town of Camborne. There are 36% of the children on the Special Needs Register. 2% of the children are from ethnic minority groups and 24% are entitled to free school meals. A new headteacher was appointed in September 2007, having been acting headteacher since April 2005.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Meriadoc Junior School as a Church of England school are good

St Meriadoc School is a friendly and welcoming school where the Christian values of respect, care and forgiveness are lived out on a daily basis and where children's personal development is outstanding. The effective leadership of the headteacher and governors have greatly improved this school through collaborative working and shared leadership. The school continues to have excellent capacity to improve further. There is a will to strive for excellence within the school.

Established strengths

- The approach to children's behaviour management based on the Christian value of forgiveness and providing the children with a 'fresh start'
- The level of respect and care shown for each individual child
- The valuing of children, staff and parents as individuals

Focus for development

- To develop formal systems of monitoring and evaluation of the school as a church school
- To develop further the involvement of the children in collective worship by challenging and empowering them to become active participants and evaluators
- To develop formal systems of assessment in RE and further develop monitoring and evaluation

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

Children feel valued and special because of the school's distinctive Christian vision. Children really enjoy school and their learning. They are happy and feel safe. Christian values such as fairness, equality, inclusion and forgiveness pervade the life of the school. The school's approach to behaviour management has greatly improved; children are offered a 'fresh start'. There is a strong emphasis on valuing and developing the whole child. Children are mature in their outlook and display confidence. Importance is placed on developing the partnership with parents and the local community, for example a group of parents worked in school regularly, to create some mosaics. Parents have commented that they feel great pride in creating these mosaics for the school. The level of care which is based on Christian values provided for

each child both pastorally and academically is outstanding. Collective worship, displays and work in religious education (RE) and across the curriculum have a significant impact on children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Children generally behave well. The work of the Learning Mentor with children who have specific behavioural needs and with their parents is having a significant impact on the attendance, emotional development and well being of a wide range of children. Stories from the 'Values for Life' curriculum are used to explain issues to children in the context of Christianity, for example the headteacher refers to the parable of the Prodigal Son for forgiveness. Children are encouraged to understand the relevance and importance of these values to their own lives. This whole school approach is having a positive impact on the children. Children work well together and show respect for each other's achievements. Excellent relationships exist between staff and children. The school environment is used effectively to encourage spiritual development, for example in the development of the quadrangle area and in the opportunities that exist in the extensive grounds. The area around the entrance hall promotes and stimulates opportunities for reflection and children contribute their thoughts and prayers to a book which is kept in this area. Excellent displays are used effectively both to celebrate children's achievements and for teachers to use as a point of reference when working with children.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Collective worship is a central part of school life. Acts of worship are distinctively Christian and contain opportunities for celebration, learning, reflection, praise and supplication. They are based on weekly themes, taken from 'Values for Life', and take into account the Church's year. There are many links with the curriculum, thereby reinforcing both collective worship and the curriculum. Children respond well to worship, for example they lead prayers, sometimes spontaneously, and write prayers for the Prayer Board. Prayer has played a key role for the children at critical times such as at the death of a pupil. Children are involved in collective worship by helping to set up the hall, choosing a song that relates to the content of the worship and sometimes contributing a prayer which reflects the content of the act of worship. The school is developing the impact of collective worship further by increasing the level of involvement of the children through a regular programme of challenges organised by a teaching assistant. Children are responding to this fortnightly input in a positive and thoughtful way. Children are being asked to think about collective worship and in particular their own spirituality and how it affects their lives and the lives of others. Children enjoy and value worship. They show a growing understanding of issues shared in collective worship and how they can apply ideas to their own lives. The school has established 12 core Christian values which the teachers have adapted and developed further. These values are having a significant impact on the children both through collective worship and through the curriculum helping children to fulfil their potential. Children's spiritual growth is enhanced by collective worship. Good links exist with the feeder infant school, for example through the development of a hymn book with the infant school. Children particularly enjoy the variety of visitors who lead collective worship, especially the regular visits by the local Anglican clergy. The visitors enhance children's experience of a range of approaches to worship. Children participate in and celebrate some major festivals in church. Some children are very active in church life with their families and through groups catering specifically for young people. Children support the African Anglican church, for example through donations of books.

The effectiveness of the religious education is good

Children enjoy religious education (RE) and comment positively about their achievement. Standards in RE are in line with age related expectations and in many cases are good. Progress is good. Formative methods of marking are being used to good effect both in praising and in challenging children. Formal assessment strategies are being developed by the school. Lessons are well planned and differentiated learning approaches are used. RE is taught both as a discrete subject and as part of a cross curricular syllabus. The quality of teaching and learning is good throughout the key stage and there are some examples of excellent teaching. Children participate confidently in lessons and most children behave appropriately. Many opportunities exist which encourage children to develop spiritually. Children are encouraged to develop morally. The syllabus is taught in line with the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus. The Christian character of the school is promoted through RE, for example through the promotion of the Christian values adopted by the school. The school also works hard to develop children's awareness of other religions and cultures. The leadership and

management of the school see RE as increasingly important in the school. The school recognises the need to develop formal systems of monitoring and evaluation. RE is enhanced by a variety of visitors such as Jaipur Brass Band, Bangora Dancers, International Drumming workshops and also members of the clergy.

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

The headteacher ensures that the Christian vision of the school permeates the life of the school and underpins school improvement. Governors embrace their role in developing the whole child. They are actively supportive of the Christian vision and lead a range of activities for children. The headteacher and governors encourage and challenge the school to realise its Christian vision, for example through the promotion of RE and collective worship. Informal monitoring and evaluation of the school as a church school is taking place, however the school recognises the need to develop formal strategies. Staff feel confident and valued about their part in sharing the school's vision. Good links exist with the Diocese, which is supportive of the school. Parents are supportive of the school. The children appreciate the strong links that exist between the school and the church and this relationship is mutually supportive. Parents provide good support of class led acts of worship and acts of worship held at the church are very popular with parents, for example the carol service. The school enjoys good relationships with the local community for example children participate in the Trevithick Day festivities and dancing and children sing carols in old peoples homes. The school is involved in charitable work locally such as food collection for the homeless. Nationally, the school supports a range of charities such as collecting for Barnados. The school also supports a variety of charities internationally, ranging from raising funds for a child in Thailand to helping the parish church collect resources for an African community.

SIAS Report January 2008 St Meriadoc Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School, Cranfield Road, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 7PJ