

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### St Osyth Church Of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Norman Close  
St Osyth  
Clacton on Sea  
Essex  
CO16 8PN

#### Diocese: Chelmsford

Local authority: Essex  
Date of inspection: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
Date of last inspection: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2003  
School's unique reference number: 115257  
Headteacher: Mr Tim Palmer  
Inspector's name and number: Andrew Binnell

#### School context

St Osyth was established in 1999 as a Foundation School with a church character. It has 281 pupils on roll almost all of whom are White British, with none having English as an additional language.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Osyth as a Church of England school is outstanding

The Headteacher and Vicar provide extremely effective leadership of this church school. The Vision Statement is clearly understood and is central to the life of the school; and it is evident that all stakeholders do '**Believe, Succeed and Grow**'. Pupils are cherished as individuals within their secure school community. **1**

#### Established Strengths

- The Headteacher and Vicar provide very strong and effective leadership, based on a shared understanding of, and commitment to, Christian values
- The centrality of the Vision Statement to school life
- The care, guidance and support of the pupils in the school

#### Focus for development

- To reflect as a community on the place of the Eucharist in school life through the engagement with a range of stakeholders, including pupils and parents
- To give Collective Worship a focus in the School Development Plan
- To seek the views of pupils on their class reflection time and take account of these in future plans for collective worship.

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

The school makes outstanding provision to meet the needs of all its learners. Learners from all groups feel valued and special in this inclusive school environment.

The school achieves its aims to promote Christian values through the outreach of the Vision Statement. The commitment to Christian values is shared by the Headteacher, all staff and members of the Governing Body. The Foundation Governors provide effective support to the school. Pupils show respect and consideration for each other with older pupils supporting younger ones both in the playground and in and around the school. **1**

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

School worship is good. It is central to all aspects of school life. It is well planned and reflects Christian celebrations and the school year. Pupils experience a good variety of worship over

the course of the school week, with each assembly having a different focus.

Great care is taken to create a calm, reflective atmosphere for worship. Pupils were engaged and focussed. Staff attend assemblies and this adds to the sense of the school as a community. Themes for worship are well planned by the Headteacher and the Vicar. They are planned on an annual basis. Collective worship is evaluated in an informal way with the Headteacher seeking out the views of pupils and staff. Governors who attend class assemblies add their evaluations. This information is logged, is generally positive and shows high levels of consideration and empathy. Findings are used to inform future practice.

Pupils particularly enjoy the storytelling skills of the Headteacher and the ability of the Vicar to explain difficult concepts in a way that they are able to understand.

Pupils from the School Council were positive about all aspects of collective worship. They were, however, somewhat unclear about the place of class reflection time. It is recommended that this prompts further dialogue with pupils relating to the intentions of this valuable act of worship in the classroom setting

In school there is a monthly Eucharist service. This takes place at the end of the school day, and is open to pupils, staff, governors, parents and friends. From discussions with stakeholders, the place of the Eucharist is currently being reflected upon. This is therefore recommended as a focus for development, engaging a range of stakeholders in deliberations, including both pupils and parents.

The parish church is used in a highly effective way to support school worship and as a resource to support learning. A range of school worship takes place in the church. This includes Harvest Festival, Key Stage Two Evening Candlelit Carol Service, Key Stage One Carol Service, Education Sunday, and an Ascension Day service.

Pupils visit the church to participate in such activities as mock weddings and baptisms as well as viewing the internal and external fabric of the building. All of these activities familiarise pupils with the church and some of the special events that take place within it. Pupils really enjoy their visits to church and are proud of 'their special building.'

There is much to celebrate about the place of collective worship in the school. It is recommended that future plans to develop this area should be outlined in the School Development Plan. This would enable stakeholders to support their achievement and help the realisation of the school's Christian vision. 1

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

The leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding. The Headteacher and the Vicar provide extremely effective leadership, working in close partnership with the staff team and the Governing Body.

There is a very good relationship between the school and the local church community.

The Vicar is highly valued for his strong support of the whole school community. He is also a Governor and has responsibility for the oversight of Collective worship and Religious Education in school. This means that he has responsibility for the creation of annual subject reports on both of these areas for the Governing Body. These provide other Governors with a helpful, thought provoking overview of these areas. This is highlighted as very good practice.

The school is well placed to continue to move forward at a pace. 1