

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School

The Square
Marchington
Uttoxeter
Staffordshire

ST14 8LH

Diocese: Lichfield

Local authority: Staffordshire
Dates of inspection: 31st October 2007
Date of last inspection: January 2003
School's unique reference number: 124262
Headteacher: Mrs Pauline Livesey
Inspector's name and number: Mr Albert Griffin 492

School context

St Peter's Church of England VC First School serves the village of Marchington and the surrounding area. It is located near the larger town of Uttoxeter. The school has 86 children on roll from age 3 to 9 years

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Peter's VC First School as a Church of England school are outstanding

St Peter's Church of England VC First School is an outstanding Church school. It has an excellent and distinctive spiritual ethos which can be seen in the relationships and excellent teamwork created by the vision of the headteacher and owned by the whole school community.

Established strengths

- Governors, staff, parents and pupils totally support the outstanding Christian leadership of the headteacher.
- The quality of collective worship is excellent and makes a very positive contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of all the pupils.
- The Christian ethos permeates all strands of school life enabling all pupils to feel highly valued and motivated to achieve.
- Established links with the local church and incumbent enrich the life of the school and honour its Anglican foundation.

Focus for development

- Build a system of evaluation into the current good worship planning practice.
- Explore ways to enable children to engage with the Eucharist in a meaningful manner.
- Develop an area within the school grounds to provide additional space for reflective opportunities.

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

The Christian ethos in this school is very strong and pervades all areas of school life, through documentation, displays and classroom practice. Christian values of love of all, forgiveness and respect are evident in all aspects of school life, so that pupils are clear as to what a church school means and represents. The school demonstrates its commitment to the faith by the use of Christian symbols and displays throughout the building. The Lord's Prayer is on display in all rooms and children know and understand it. Each classroom has its own

worship area where children can take time out to reflect. Pupils said that they feel safe and happy in school and the work is fun. Children are extremely confident and open to the needs of each other. This was clearly demonstrated when two pupils, who had suffered a recent family bereavement, expressed God's love in sad times. The pupils respond to praise and reward and appreciate the recognition and celebration of their achievements in the Gold Book and 'golden assemblies.' The pupils are well aware of the needs of others and become involved in charitable events on a local and global scale, demonstrating generosity and service. The school has recently achieved Healthy School Status and the children clearly understand this lifestyle. Children are rewarded with invitations to the prestigious "Dining Club" for demonstrating positive behaviour and manners. The school council is a well-developed part of school life, which enables pupils to make decisions and to take responsibility for themselves and others. Parents said that the "school is very approachable with a friendly, family atmosphere." Another parent said, "It encourages the children to develop a very positive outlook."

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding.

Collective worship is given a high profile in the school. It is the focal point in the school day. All staff and a member of the parish ministry lead collective worship on a planned rota. All staff attend each day. There are planned themes for collective worship, which follow the Church festivals throughout the year, so that pupils identify readily with the Anglican tradition. The children are directly involved in preparing the assembly, playing entrance music, reading Bible passages and saying their own prayers. They say or sing the Lord's Prayer and the school prayer each day, so that prayer is becoming part of their own spiritual and personal lives. Children understand the symbolism of the artefacts used such as the cross, praying hands and lighted candles. The central focus for whole school worship is the Brazilian style cross designed by former pupils, reflecting the school, church and village community. The children approach worship quietly and reverently. The children said that 'Worship is a special time when they can talk to God together.' On special occasions worship is celebrated in St Peter's Church and the whole community is invited to participate. The Rev Stone and the Rev Elwood make a positive impact, because of their regular presence in school, enabling pupils to have positive attitudes to the church. School events and news are reported every month in the parish magazine which is distributed throughout the village, linking parish, church and school together. The children are able to demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of key Bible stories and Christian teaching.

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

The headteacher, governing body and all staff provide outstanding leadership of the school, most notably in nurturing and developing its inclusive Christian ethos. The headteacher is particularly strong and enthusiastic and provides outstanding Christian leadership, leading by example. All adults are excellent role models. Pupils are given many opportunities to grow in spiritual awareness and therefore in understanding how they relate to the world around and to others. The school has benefited from the support of the diocesan advisor in developing leadership roles within the school.

The Foundation governors are particularly strong and provide excellent support at every level. They ensure that the church is fully aware of all that the school does. Their involvement in evaluating the school as a church school has contributed to school action planning.

The headteacher's vision for the school is directly linked to achievement and the 'Every Child Matters' agenda.

Parents are extremely satisfied with the provision of a caring, secure and successful learning environment, where all feel valued. They appreciate the openness of the school, where they feel welcome and are able to make constructive comments and suggestions. Parents are aware of their children's progress and positively contribute to learning and the wider curriculum