

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior School,
The Parade,
Marlborough,
Wilts.,
SN8 1LQ

Diocese: Salisbury

LA: Wiltshire

Date of inspection: 14.2.08

Date of last inspection: March 2003

School's Unique reference number: 126377

Name of Head teacher: Mrs. Caroline Wood

Inspector's name with number: Rev Harold Stephens. (264)

The School's Context

St Peter's CE Junior School, Marlborough, is a mixed Junior school with 184 pupils. The School serves part of the market town of Marlborough and receives a number of pupils with statements of educational need from East Wiltshire. The pupil population is mainly white European with few from other minority groups. Pupil levels on entry are a little lower than the national average. The school has gained the 'Healthy School' award, the sports 'Activemark', an 'Artsmark' and a foundation International Schools Award.

Summary Judgement

St Peter's CE Junior School is a good Church of England School.

Leadership and management have enabled a growth in confidence and creative development of the school's distinctiveness as a Church of England School. The ethos of the school, its effective approaches to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and the quality of Church and community links are further evidence of the school's continuing development. Collective Worship is good and pupils are served well by the school's inclusive, positive and committed ethos.

Established strengths

- The good quality of pastoral care, with a strong culture of inclusion as exemplified by the Special Learning Centre and also the strong "student voice"
- The strong leadership and management supported well by the governing body which is driving change and introducing a strong culture of continual improvement in the school.
- The active and effective links with the Church and the wider community (including Africa and China) and the central rôle of the Parish Priest in the life of the school.

Focus for development

- Embed and implement the new behaviour policy consistently across the school community.
- To continue the developing strategies for work with the most able pupils.

The school, as a church school is good in meeting the needs of all learners.

St Peter's Church of England Junior School has a clear and distinctive ethos explicitly rooted in its Church foundation and character. The school has increasingly secure, effective and imaginative links with the church and further afield. The provision for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is taken seriously and addressed carefully across the curriculum.

Provision for care and guidance are good and the effectiveness of inclusion, including for pupils with special educational needs and those who attend the SLC, is outstanding. Pupils have "a good understanding of how to behave" said parents. They are "accepting of others". The good social mix is valued by parents who see their children as confident in social settings as a result.

The curriculum provision is satisfactory although in some areas lacks challenge especially for the more able. This is being actively addressed by the school. The behaviour of a small number of pupils does affect the learning of others, although all efforts are made to ensure that this is minimised. A new behaviour policy has been introduced as an important tool to help in this. Pupil "critical pathway" progress interviews reflect further positive strides in this direction. Pupils feel safe at the school and report little evidence of any bullying.

The provision for Religious Education is effective – well-led and well taught and is a significant contributor to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. Together with Personal and Social Education (PSCHE) this offers opportunities for pupils to ponder and reflect on their own attitudes, beliefs and experience as well as those of others. These are well-planned and integral to the school's vision and ethos. The commitment to the spiritual, moral development of children is evident throughout the school. The use of the SEAL initiative and the Diocesan Values for Life scheme are given considerable importance.

Pupils have extensive opportunities to participate in the life of the school – taking responsibility in such areas as play time, the School Council and in out of school projects.

Provision for multi-cultural education is a strength. Pupils have opportunities to learn about other cultures and faiths. The school has international links including the Gambia and China, in a town reputed for its connections to Africa through the local Brandt group. This is excellent.

The distinctiveness of St Peter's Junior School as a Church of England school is clear, effective and valued by all stakeholders. The revised aims and vision statement of the school make this explicit. Links beyond the school, in particular with Parish and Diocese have developed effectively to the benefit of all learners.

The impact of Collective Worship at St. Peter's Junior School is good.

Collective Worship is well-planned and evaluated, including evaluation by pupils, staff and clergy. An appropriate range of themes is used, rooted in the life of the school, the Values for Life and SEAL programmes and the Christian Year. The quality of acts of collective worship is generally good. This is enhanced by regular services in Church. The Wednesday "Godly Play" led by parish clergy enhances provision with noted positive responses from children.

A good variety of adults from in and beyond the school community lead worship with strong involvement of the Parish Priest and other ministers in preparing for and delivering worship. All pupils are now included in the school's programme of class acts of collective worship. In these they are asked to help plan and deliver worship.

Pupils respond appropriately to worship and have demonstrated that some worship does have a spiritual impact: "Hitting the spot" as one piece of research revealed. In discussion, pupils were able to speak of acts of collective worship which

they had remembered, which had made them think and had an impact on them.

There are good connections with the local Church and the work of the Parish Priest continues to be most effective in helping develop as well as deliver Collective Worship at the school. Worship takes place regularly in Church and the Church comes to worship with the school annually.

Collective worship is well-coordinated and resourced. The programme has been imaginatively developed and is appreciated as important by all at the school. Frequent links to the curriculum are evident and many good opportunities seized.

Evaluation includes pupils as well as those who deliver and plan worship. Governors report the “voice of the pupils” to the head to aid developments and improvements.

The leadership and management of St Peter's CE Junior School as a Church School are good.

Governors speak of “huge strides” in moving the school along in the past 2 years. The parents speak of the enthusiastic head “who makes such an impact”. The Head Teacher is effectively supported at senior levels. There are many signs that changes have been started which are addressing continuing areas of need for improvement. This includes the new behaviour policy as well as programmes to aid the most able (with Maths at Marlborough College) and the Critical Pathway programme which is encouraging challenge for teachers in how they challenge all pupils.

The quality of leadership is such that there is a strong spiritual and moral vision which is having a progressively effective impact through co-operative, collegial and team approaches within and beyond the school gates.

Governance, including the work of the Foundation Governors, has made clear strides to engage with the task as effective supporters, encouragers and drivers of the school's Christian vision. For example, governor training and resulting action has led a positive and more focussed work to support the school's development as a Church School.

The school places considerable importance on the provision of Religious Education, Collective Worship and the development of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils.

The head teacher has been instrumental in enabling the school to clarify its Christian aims and vision and this has been ably and very effectively supported by the work of the Parish Priest who is Ex-officio Foundation Governor as well as colleague in this endeavour. There is a culture of continuous improvement and strategies in place which are already addressing issues the school continues to face.

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