

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Thomas and St Anne's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Hanwood
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY5 8JN

Diocese: Hereford

Local authority: Shropshire
Dates of inspection: 13th December 2007
Date of last inspection: October 2004
School's unique reference number: 123525
Headteacher: Mrs C Budd
Inspector's name and number: Mrs A Mundy NS 545

School context

St Thomas and St Anne's Church of England Primary School is a voluntary controlled school situated in the village of Hanwood. There are 96 pupils, 22 of whom are in the Nursery. The headteacher has been in post since January 2007. The majority of pupils are from White British backgrounds.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Thomas and St Anne's CE Primary School as a Church of England school are good.

The school's own self evaluation states that 'Every member of the school community is valued and celebrated as an individual.' It is clear that the Christian values of love, care and respect are an intrinsic part of St Thomas and St Anne's CE School. Children are proud to belong to the school. 'Prepare to be astounded,' warned my pupil guide as he threw open the door to his classroom. The school entrance hall and the school hall proclaim the school's Christian foundation with notices, signs, symbols and wonderful artwork telling the Christmas story. A poster in one classroom sums up the school ethos. 'We are like a jigsaw puzzle. We are different but we fit together perfectly.'

Established strengths

- The way in which the school actively seeks to know and nurture individuals.
- The positive attitudes and excellent behaviour of learners.
- The strong supportive relationship with the local church.

Focus for development

- To ensure that the exciting new initiatives in collective worship have a positive impact on the life of the school community.
- To provide, with the support of the diocese, training opportunities for those involved in leading collective worship.
- To provide time and space for quiet reflection and prayer during the school day.

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

The school ethos and environment reflects the Christian nature of the school. Governors, staff, pupils and parents speak about the special ethos of the school which is always welcoming and nurtures all individuals. Learners clearly feel valued and comments in the school prospectus include, 'I like my school because if you're lonely there's always someone there for you.' 'I also like school because everybody here is unique and special.' Behaviour is exemplary and there is a strong sense of community in which everyone cares for each other. Weekly celebration assemblies demonstrate the high value placed on the achievements of the learners. There is little visible evidence of the impact of religious education (RE) in classrooms. A pupil survey conducted in the Summer Term of 2007 indicates that some pupils sometimes find RE uninteresting. Parents expressed the belief that their children are happy in school, receiving a good Christian grounding.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

Collective Worship occupies a secure place in the life of the school and is clearly valued by pupils who particularly enjoy whole school assemblies when they are able to play an active part. There are strong links with the local church and once each term assembly is held in the church. The church team is committed to making a positive contribution to collective worship and lead assembly once a week. The Lord's Prayer is used on this occasion. There was little evidence that prayer was used at other times during the school day. Collective worship and spiritual development have been identified as focus areas in the current school development plan. The headteacher and foundation governors reviewed collective worship practice in the Summer Term 2007 and already improvements are evident in daily acts of worship. Children and staff speak of the lively songs, times of reflection and the opportunities to participate that are now offered. The collective worship policy is due to be reviewed. The headteacher and governors are committed to an ongoing evaluation of collective worship and the impact it has on the school community.

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

The headteacher has a clear vision for this church school and is a very positive role model. Her commitment to developing the school with a distinctive Christian ethos is shared by the foundation governors who play an active part in the school's self-evaluation process. There is a clear strategy for further improvement and self-evaluation is secure. Links with the local church are strong. School staff feel valued and support the church school ethos. Parents are satisfied that the school provides a caring environment, inspired by Christian principles, which enable individuals from all backgrounds to develop. Recommendations from the previous Section 23 inspection report have been met.