

# National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

## **Townlands Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Meadowcourt Road

Earl Shilton

Leicestershire

LE9 7FF

**Diocese: Leicester**

LA: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007

Dates of last inspection: 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2002

School's Unique Ref. No: 120191

Name of Head teacher; Mrs Linda Dawson

Inspector's name (with N.S. No): Mr D G Jones (No: 166)

### **Context**

This is one of three schools serving a small town a few miles from Hinckley, to the west of Leicestershire. The town was once heavily industrialised, but the industry has declined. The school is situated in a new housing development to the south of the town and is a comparatively new building. About one third of the pupils attend from outside the school's priority area by parental preference, some on denominational grounds. There are no pupils from faiths other than Christianity and very few from other cultures. There are no withdrawals from collective worship or religious education.

### **Summary Judgement**

**The distinctiveness and effectiveness of this school as a Church of England school are satisfactory.**

The school is fully committed to its Christian Foundation and to a strong relationship with pupils. There is good collective worship. Good progress has been made following a lengthy period of change amongst senior staff.

### **Established strengths**

- Strong commitment to the school's Christian Foundation and a determination to increase parents' awareness of it;
- A friendly and supportive atmosphere with good knowledge of pupils, leading to good, caring relationships throughout the school;
- Very well planned and enjoyable collective worship contributing to good spiritual and moral development.

### **Focus for development**

- Create opportunities for pupils to encounter people of other faiths and to visit a variety of places of worship; establish links where possible with schools in multicultural areas or other countries
- Create opportunities for governors to explore periodically the implications of being a church school and the nature of collective worship, seek parents' views, and exchange news and displays with the parish church;
- Further develop opportunities for pupils to take part in leading collective worship and writing the prayers used;
- Include these developments in the School Improvement Plan.

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

The staff and governors are fully committed to the school's Christian foundation, but this could be made more public in communications with parents and in displays. Learners feel valued and in turn greatly appreciate the school, its caring environment and opportunities for learning. Older pupils care for younger ones, and some are designated 'peacemakers'. A school council enthusiastically takes real responsibility for new initiatives and improvements. Achievements are celebrated regularly during worship, and this is appreciated. Residential experience and visits are offered to pupils and are successful. However, outings to places of worship of other faiths have not been arranged recently, though some visitors are invited. Progress, therefore, needs to be made in cultural development, although spiritual, moral and social development is strong. Parents' views are sought by questionnaire and it would be helpful if these included questions about the school's Christian commitment and practice.

**The impact of collective worship on the school is good.**

The school worships each day in the hall, which is a rather bare space with equipment on most walls. The atmosphere is improved by the use, as a focal point, of a cloth covered table with a cross, fish and candle and a separate lectern and bible. Good use is also made of technology to project pictures onto a screen. On one day, one Key Stage gathers in this way, while the others worship in classes. Each teacher takes a turn in leading Key Stage worship, and the Vicar and URC Minister each lead worship on one day in alternate weeks, and their contribution is valued by pupils. Acts of worship are well planned and imaginative and are enjoyable events of good quality. There is plenty of participation and pupils respond well. Pupils often join with the leaders in presenting the theme for the day and this is appreciated. Christian songs are well known and are sung well and with pleasure. Pupils join in prayers said by the teacher: prayers are also said before lunch and at the end of the day. Some prayers for peace written by pupils were seen which showed good spiritual and moral development. Class worship with younger pupils was in the form of circle time with a very practical and participative approach, and was effective. Themes are planned a term in advance using diocesan guidelines. A record is kept of each act of worship with a brief and helpful evaluation. Worship takes place in the parish church at special festivals and end of year: parents attend and pupils feel that these are special occasions. Worship makes a significant contribution to spiritual and moral development and pupils spoke freely about this.

**The leadership and management of the school, as a church school, are satisfactory.**

The headteacher and governors are leading the school towards stable and good quality provision after a lengthy period of change in senior staff. The whole management team and coordinators are committed to improvements and raising standards. The head and governors are fully committed to the school's Christian foundation and welcome initiatives to strengthen this aspect of the school's life. It is encouraging to see not only the Vicar but also the URC Minister very actively involved with the school and the governors. The head and governors are committed to exploring all the implications and possibilities of the school's Christian status and to including proposals in the School Improvement Plan.