

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Trinity Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Woodborough Lane,
Radstock,
Bath
BA3 3JF

Diocese: Bath & Wells

Local authority: Bath and North East Somerset

Dates of inspection: 22 November 2006

School's unique reference number: 134239

Headteacher: Mrs. Clare Griffin-Felton /Mrs. Pepe Rahman-Hart

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Joyce Bellamy 112

School context

Trinity Church of England Primary school opened in September 2005 following the closure of two nearby small schools. The school provides outstanding surroundings, accommodation and facilities for its learners. It serves part of the town of Radstock, which includes pockets of deprivation.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Trinity as a Church of England school are good

Trinity C of E is a good Church school with many strengths. It has a Christian ethos that permeates all aspects of school life.

Established strengths

- Enthusiasm and commitment of whole school staff
- The high standard of pastoral care for all its pupils

Focus for development

- Develop and implement comprehensive effective systems for monitoring and evaluating worship and Religious Education
- To complete and publish a relevant mission statement based on Christian beliefs and values
- Ensure that a full complement of foundation governors is in place as soon as possible in the spring term

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

The children feel safe, secure, valued and special. The uniqueness and worth of the individual is continually being expressed and genuine delight is shown whenever a learner makes an appropriate, positive contribution however small. In this way, the learners across the whole academic spectrum are appropriately challenged and supported. Any conflicts or unsuitable behaviour are swiftly, fairly and compassionately addressed and the opportunity for a "clean slate" is adopted as a matter of course. The Trinity Code is firmly rooted in implicit Christian values and pupils are often reminded of its relevance.

The introduction of the stilling area and classroom prayer tables are indicators that the Trinity children are being encouraged to develop spiritually. This is supplemented by extra curricular activities such as hand bell ringing and the Christian based Dove club. Examples of encouraging children to seek awe and wonder around them were witnessed e.g. attention was drawn to the beautiful building and outdoor areas, and the care needed to sustain them. These are further enhanced by the visually impressive displays found throughout the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The centrality of daily worship time is very important to whole school community. It is a time when the Christian nature of the school is regularly expressed and affirmed. It gives opportunities for guidance and spiritual development through the learners' everyday experiences. It also contributes significantly to the Christian ethos where learners feel safe and secure enough to explore, challenge and grow in their beliefs. The planning and delivery of worship is well organised. All teaching staff have had training through the Diocese and are confident to lead worship. The variety of approaches to worship is one of its strengths. The leaders' personalities and personal preferences of worship style is welcomed within the wide spectrum of Anglican traditions. The children respond accordingly and respectfully. Joyful singing and appropriate pupil participation are encouraged and suitably balanced by moments of stillness and contemplation. The successful weekly pattern for worship has evolved to produce a balanced programme that is mindful of the age and maturity of the pupils coupled with the powerful need to forge a whole school family ethos. However, the evaluation and monitoring of worship is under developed.

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

The management and leadership team have a thorough knowledge of their staff, pupils and surroundings. The headteachers' enthusiasm and genuine delight with their new school and the learners' achievements are infectious. They have a very clear and strong Christian vision for Trinity and constantly reinforce the values of the school. They lead by example, showing that hard work and dedication to their own principles and beliefs can and do generate a positively Christian learning environment. Views and comments are sought from all interested parties and modifications to practices adopted if they are perceived as benefiting the children

The School Development Plan has been instrumental in establishing Trinity as a church school. This has been seen as a priority. Now this is embedded, a mission statement which has relevance to all stake holders can be formulated. The governors have been mindful of the church status when employing staff and as a consequence a strong committed team has been put in place.

Aspects of the whole school curriculum are based on Christian values. The Religious Education programme has some very challenging elements as shown by the good lesson taught by the deputy head who challenged pupils to think deeply. Emphasis is placed on the individual's own growth of understanding. It has a prominent place on the School Development Plan. Children with or without a faith background enjoy the subject and approach it with openness and frankness. The co-ordination and delivery of the subject is good and the subject is seen as vibrant and relevant today. At present consistent assessment is being developed, but effective monitoring and evaluation is not in place.

In service training has been attended by all teaching and non teaching staff, the headteachers and governors. Clearly the training to do with establishing a Christian ethos, planning and delivering collective worship has positively impacted on the whole school.

The governors are supportive and rightly proud of the achievements of the school, but their role for monitoring and evaluating needs further development particularly in Religious Education and Collective worship. The vicar and foundation governor (there is at present a vacancy for a foundation governor) give welcome spiritual encouragement. In spite of being opened recently the Christian nature of Trinity church school is well established. The school's enthusiastic strong Christian character provides support and nurture to those within the school and opportunities for increasingly effective pastoral links outside.