

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Tushingham-with-Grindley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Tushingham
Whitchurch
SY13 4QS

Diocese: Chester

Local authority: Cheshire

Date of inspection: 29th January 2008

Dates of last inspection: 21 – 23 January 2002

School's unique reference number: 111285

Headteacher: Mrs E M Moncrieff

Inspector's name and number: Peter Maskery 520

School context

Tushingham is a small village primary school in a rural setting north of Whitchurch and adjacent to the A41 road. All pupils currently attending are of white British heritage. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is below average. There is a lower than average proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The local authority has agreed to the trialling of part-time nursery provision and this is currently funded by the school.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Tushingham-with-Grindley CE Primary School as a Church of England school are satisfactory.

Tushingham-with-Grindley primary school currently offers its pupils a church school experience at a satisfactory level. Initiatives, some new and others more established, together with the structures in place, offer an opportunity for improvement.

Established strengths

- The school's emphasis on the importance and value of every individual in the school.
- The Christian values and caring ethos that are woven into learning and relationships.

Focus for development

- The school should undertake self evaluation as a church school and use this to develop a clear vision based on its role as a church school.
- The school should put in place structures to enable the monitoring and evaluation of these developments.
- The school should nurture and encourage the initiatives that are helping develop this church school.

Tushingham-with-Grindley Church of England Primary School is satisfactory in meeting the needs of all learners through its distinctive Christian character.

The children enjoy learning and contributing in a Christian environment. Relationships within the school are positive. Children are valued by the teachers and their assistants and encouraged to achieve their potential. Pupils have a positive respect for one another as they are encouraged to do things the 'Tushingham Way'. Their actions reflect happiness, kindness, gentleness and a clear understanding of right and wrong. The integration of traveller children, by staff and children, is good and illustrates the impact of Christian values

on the attitudes of the pupils. The children accept that people are different and aim to look for the good in others. The impact of the Christian ethos of the school starts when each child is given a copy of The Lord's Prayer. Children use this book in school as they learn the words and meaning of this prayer and then put them into practice. An interesting display in the entrance hall, relating to a sequential series of Old Testament stories, is enthusiastically maintained and explained by the children. Displays in the younger age classes provide an effective focal point for reflection. Tushingham is a welcoming school. This is especially evident in the toddler group and nursery class where children are given a good foundation, and is witnessed in their talk and deeds. Visitors from other faiths and cultures enable the children to show a growing understanding and tolerance of people from different parts of the world with different beliefs.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

A good whole school act of worship was led by the vicar with whom the children have a very good rapport. The children responded by being very well behaved, listened attentively, provided thoughtful answers and were keen to be fully involved. Discussions with the children show that they had a good understanding of the message about 'goodness' and 'worshipping a true God' after the morning worship. Pupils are pleased to be involved in making a banner following a series of Old Testament stories. The banner serves as a visual reminder and a stimulus for lively discussion. Worship is held in a multi purpose hall where a large wooden cross is the focal point for worshippers. Honesty, forgiveness and sincerity are lessons they learn through worship and the children effectively put these into practice in their daily lives. Children are effectively praised, encouraged and receive recognition during whole school worship. The coordinator has produced a worship programme which meets the spiritual needs and development of the children to a satisfactory level. Children discuss and appreciate the Christian themes and links which enable them to better understand people with different faiths. Worship has a limited impact upon the children's spiritual development because overall collective worship is satisfactory. Worship does not have a high profile in the school as currently not all staff attend all collective worship. There is a satisfactory and developing relationship between the church and school. Older pupils speak enthusiastically about the project work they undertake in the parish church and have satisfactory knowledge and understanding of its history and Christian mission

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

The headteacher's Christian vision for the school has a satisfactory impact on the school and wider community. The church and school community appreciate the headteacher's article in the Parish News as a valuable community link. Pupils are given some opportunities to assist the management and leadership of their school and they respond enthusiastically and with maturity. The headteacher's special message box is a good initiative giving pupils the opportunity to write suggestions as to ways in which their school can be improved. Children talk enthusiastically and realistically about their hopes for the development of their school. Lunchtime support supervision by older pupils in the nursery playground provide good opportunities to show the caring side of the children as they play with and look after the youngest members of their school. The newly appointed collective worship and religious education (RE) coordinator is undertaking a leadership and management role which is beginning to bring benefits to the children and is recognised by pupils, staff and governors. The coordinator teaches RE throughout the school and this is a good initiative that enables the children to talk with informed knowledge and understanding about the subject and its impact upon areas of this church school. In-service work, undertaken by the coordinator and shared with the staff, benefits the spiritual development of the pupils. The school governors focus upon the well-being of the children and are organised to make sure each child achieves their potential and entitlement. The school undertakes limited formal self-evaluation, as a church school. All members of the leadership and management team have the expertise to develop this church school further.