

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Twigworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Tewesbury Road

Twigworth

GL2 9PG

Diocese of Gloucester

Gloucestershire LA

Date of inspection 11th January 2007

Date of last inspection 21st September 2001

School's URN 115656

Name of Headteacher: Mr. M R Dill. Acting Head: Mrs. Carol Cowlshaw

Inspector: Mrs Carole May, NS 113

Context

This school is operating under very unusual and difficult circumstances as it has recently been made subject to a closure notice. As a result, between July and November 2006 the number on roll has fallen from 60 to 13. At present pupils are taught in two classes on a site with three separate buildings. The substantive headteacher has been on long-term sick leave since April 2006 and the school is being led by an acting head. There have also been several recent changes in the make up of the governing body.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Twigworth Primary as Church of England School is satisfactory.

The school has responded pragmatically to the rapidly changing circumstances and provides a positive and effective learning environment for all its pupils. Its Christian ethos is implicit in its handling of its present situation and in the very good relationships pervading the whole school community.

Established Strengths

- The staff and governors have worked together to ensure that a good standard of education and care are provided for pupils of all abilities.
- Pupils achieve well and standards are high in some subjects of the curriculum.
- Personal, social and health education is particularly good.
- Pupils have very positive attitudes towards school and their behaviour is very good.

Focus for development

- Improve the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the daily act of collective worship, and the system of assessment in religious education.
- Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding of faiths other than Christianity.

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

Pupils achieve well in the National tests and standards are above average. Pupils of all abilities are catered for well. Work is planned appropriately to meet their individual needs and there is plenty of additional adult support for those with special educational needs. The curriculum has been adapted well to meet the needs of the few remaining pupils. Both pupils and parents speak enthusiastically about the school. Pupils like the staff and appreciate the new activities that have been designed for them. They enjoy the opportunities provided for visits out of school, including visits to the cathedral and lessons taught by visiting specialists such as games and gymnastics.

Personal, social, and health education (PSHE) is particularly good. Pupils learn about healthy eating, staying safe, caring for one another, and fostering and maintaining good relationships. Local, national and global issues are considered and discussed and pupils

regularly raise money for charity. The PSHE lesson in the class containing YR and Y1 pupils met the needs of the pupils well. They responded well because the teacher has a very good rapport with the children and the content of the lesson and the resources used were appropriate. Relevant homework was given.

Religious Education (RE) lessons are planned in accordance with the requirements of the new locally agreed syllabus but the assessment procedures have not yet been updated. Whilst the quality of teaching and learning and the standards in RE throughout the school were not within the remit of this inspection a lesson in the class containing Years 3 to 6 was observed. Pupils were interested, responded well to questions and standards in this lesson were in line with those expected in the locally agreed syllabus. However, discussions with pupils revealed that their knowledge of religions other than Christianity is very limited.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory

There are two whole school acts of collective worship each week and three in classrooms. No systematic planning, monitoring or evaluation of worship takes place. Since September one of the whole school acts of worship has been led by the local Open the Book Team, which concentrates on retelling Bible stories in creative and interactive ways. Pupils are actively involved and these visits have had a positive impact on pupils' knowledge and understanding of the Bible.

The acts of worship held in the classrooms involve discussions of the day's events, opportunities for reflection and prayer. The daily act of collective worship was observed in each class and both of these were satisfactory. In one class a candle was used as a focal point, and in the other the pupils prayed for a classmate who was absent because his dog had died. In both classes pupils said the Lord's Prayer. Both these occasions were pertinent and topical. The whole school also say prayers at lunchtime and during my visit, the older pupils sang a 'school rap' promoting harmony and working together. The unaccompanied singing was tuneful and enthusiastic.

Sometimes pupils visit the parish church for services at harvest time or Christmas, but this year, these services have taken place in school. Parents and the community are invited and these events are spoken of with enthusiasm by pupils and parents alike.

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

The school has the full complement of Foundation Governors and since the start of the current academic year a representative from the Diocesan Board of Education has attended meetings of the Governing Body. The staff and governors have made an accurate analysis of their present situation. There is a good self-evaluation plan setting out the current situation clearly and detailing actions to ensure that the immediate future of the school is managed well. The school prospectus has been re-written to highlight the advantages of such a small school and well-presented weekly newsletters are sent to parents to keep them well informed of all the exciting things happening for their children. However, those aspects of the school that define its distinctive Christian ethos have been overshadowed by recent events. The ill health of the incumbent has affected links with the parish church. Policies for RE and worship have not been reviewed recently and uncertainty about funding has meant that the manager for RE and worship has been unable to attend any recent diocesan training courses, nor has she had the opportunity to attend the Local Authority's training concerning the new locally agreed RE syllabus. As a result, the system of assessment in RE has not yet been updated.