

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

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

Uplowman  
Tiverton  
Devon  
EX16 7DR

#### **Diocese: Exeter**

Local authority: Devon  
Dates of inspection: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2008  
Date of last inspection: October 2003  
School's unique reference number: 113369  
Headteacher: Mrs. Janet Norris  
Inspector's name and number: Janet Bond 247

#### **School context**

This is a small village school with 62 children. All children come from a white British background. Children come from the local village, the surrounding rural area and the nearby market town. Major building works have recently been completed, providing a new classroom and administration suite.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Uplowman as a Church of England school are outstanding**

This is a school where all are loved and cherished. As a result, relationships are outstanding. The Christian vision for the school is expressed through all aspects of school life. Children, staff, governors, parents and the Church very effectively care for and support one another.

#### **Established strengths**

- Children are very well supported and nurtured by outstanding relationships with staff and each other
- Children are happy and confident because their ideas and views are valued
- Children flourish within the caring Christian school family where Christian principles are lived out in practice.

#### **Focus for development**

- Provide systems for formal monitoring of collective worship by staff and children
- Establish systems for assessment of religious education

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

Children give of their best because they know they are valued. They are very effectively encouraged to be caring and thoughtful to others. This is the result of the outstanding relationships within school based on the Christian values of love, respect, tolerance and care. These are practised constantly throughout the school day. Children are caring and thoughtful towards each other and are confident in their own worth. As one child wrote, "God loves me as I am". This is very effectively reinforced by celebration of achievements and in joyful worship. The Christian character is very well reflected in the sense of personal responsibility children show. They show this in peer mediation, protective behaviour and through the school

council. Their care for others is reflected in their involvement in fund raising, locally, nationally and internationally. Through these activities children acquire a sense of understanding and empathy with the wider world. Children are very conscious of healthy lifestyles and the school has been effective in promoting exercise, healthy eating and a good understanding of safety. Older children plan, every half term, an aerobic routine which all enjoy participating in daily before lunch. Children enjoy and benefit from religious education lessons which provide a good foundation for the children in Christianity and a sensitive introduction to other faiths. Spirituality is effectively shown by the children in their art work and poetry as well as in their joy within the rich curriculum available. Strong links with the parish Church and the local community resulted in children collaboratively working to design and produce a beautiful stained glass window for the new entrance. Parent's views confirm that their children are happy and cherished within school.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is good**

Whole school worship is central to school life. Children are provided with stimulating opportunities to experience a range of forms of Christian worship. Through the involvement of the local incumbent the Anglican tradition is effectively reinforced. Children benefit from a well organised environment with an altar, cross and candle to help focus their attention. Children find worship an enjoyable experience and understand it is a special time. They join in the Lord's Prayer and show a good understanding of the Christian principles that underpin worship. They are proud to write their comments about worship in the special book kept by the altar. Children are active participants in worship, leading prayers and readings, which results in all being engaged. Last year children produced an outstanding interactive presentation on the meaning of worship which is now used as a resource. Themes are well planned and delivered in a caring and loving atmosphere. Although children give their views in the special book and in discussions, there is no formal evaluation of worship either by staff or children.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding**

The leadership and management of the school as a Church school are outstanding. The headteacher and governors have been very effective in developing a distinctive and strong Christian vision shared by all. This very firmly underpins all aspects of school life. The headteacher's courteous and loving approach acts as an excellent role model for all. Children feel valued and loved. The very strong parent partnership that has been developed allows all to contribute to the school. They support after school clubs and are active in fundraising. Parents are very pleased that their children are happy and want to attend school. The school has good links with the local community and children participate in a range of village activities. The Church community is supportive, and the development of the Friday club has resulted in more children and their families attending family worship in Church. Governors are well informed and supportive and have developed an effective culture of self evaluation. Religious education is well planned and monitored, although systems for assessment and monitoring of progress in religious education are in the early stages of development. Resources are good and cover a range of other faiths. Parents value the caring Christian atmosphere of the school which enables all to flourish.