

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Wareside Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Reeves Green,
Wareside,
Herts S
G12 7QR

Diocese of St Albans

LA: Herts

SIAS Inspection: 27.11.2006

Previous S23 Inspection: 2003

URN: 117412

Headteacher: Elaine Batten

SIAS Inspector Name: Steve Adam 65

School Context

Wareside CE Primary School is a small school of 49 pupils set in the beautiful rural countryside of South Hertfordshire. The children are all white British and are taught in 3 mixed-age classes. The headteacher has been in post for just over a year and the Priest-in-charge joined the parish three months ago. The number of children with Special Educational Needs is significantly above the national average.

Summary judgement

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

This most pleasantly situated school provides a safe and friendly environment for learning. Children learn the values of sharing, caring and kindness and demonstrate them in their relationships with each other and the adults who teach them. However, the ethos of the school is broadly Christian in character, rather than distinctly and effectively Christian, although it is well placed to respond positively to this challenge.

Established strengths

- A pleasant learning environment which is well cared for;
- The dedication of the headteacher and the progress made in a short period of time;
- The unity of purpose of all members of staff and the quality of their practical and pastoral support for all learners;
- The quality of the children's support for each other.

Focus for development

- Promote and celebrate the Christian distinctiveness within the school;
- Develop Christian Worship as opposed to assembly;
- Provide more opportunities for pupils' spiritual development through a wider range of Collective Worship experiences in Church.

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

The school meets the needs of a wide variety of learners in social, moral and cultural development and also in general care. Children feel safe and know who will help them when they are in need. Pupils speak, in general terms, of the positive effect of the school, which helps them to become kind and caring people but cannot yet talk in depth about Christian faith or belief. There is a strong sense of unity and working together among all staff. Parents

describe how the confidence the children gain over their time at school equips them well to approach their secondary education with confidence. The school's Ethos Statement refers to the church school status and the encouragement to pupils to adopt Christian values, but this does not yet sufficiently impact on pupils' spiritual development. The partnership between the Governors, clergy and Headteacher is not yet sufficiently established to share and articulate a vision for the distinctive Christian character of the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is satisfactory.

Worship enjoys a secure place in the daily life of the school, although it is currently called assembly. All staff are present. They take part and support the children well. Themes are planned and the content is Christian in character. The children respond well and they have some opportunities for reflection. Learners are now ready for Worship in its fullest meaning, in order to maximise the opportunities for reflection and learning and also to explore Anglican tradition and heritage. The opportunities to worship in church are currently too few and this limits the impact of collective worship on all learners and their spiritual development. Although some informal monitoring of collective worship has begun, the absence of formal monitoring by the Foundation Governor is also limiting the impact on all learners.

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

As a church school, the leadership and management is satisfactory with some good evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the school. Systems for planning and monitoring the school are in place but some of these are informal, such as monitoring worship, and therefore limit the impact of the leadership of the school as a church school. The Governors are aware of the school's Christian foundation and purpose. However, the partnership between the Headteacher, Governors and the Priest-in-charge, while being full of promise and creative potential, is so new that it has not yet had time to make a full impact on all learners. A clear, distinct vision shared by all leaders, is emerging, and when the vision is fully formed and put into place, it will increase the effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school