

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Wellesbourne Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School,**

Mountford Close,

Wellesbourne,

Warks.

CV35 9GB

**Diocese: Coventry**

LA: Warwickshire

Date of inspection: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007

Date of last inspection: June 2002

School's Unique Reference Number: 125651

Name of Headteacher: Mr. Graeme Burgess

Inspector's name & National Society Number: Mr A S Brown No. 256

### **School Context**

Wellesbourne Church of England Primary School has grown rapidly in recent years. It is near St Peter's Church and the pupils visit regularly.

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

The headteacher has vigorous, dynamic enthusiasm and a vision of what needs to be done to create a purposeful and lively church school. Collective worship is planned, resourced and presented in a manner that indicates its central importance in the school. The relationship with St Peter's Church is very good with the Incumbent, who is the school Chaplain, and other members of the congregation contributing regularly to the spiritual and pastoral life of the school.

### **Established strengths**

- The vision and enthusiasm of the headteacher and management team that creates a church school reflecting its Christian ethos and character;
- The quality of planning and preparation for collective worship;
- The firm commitment of the school to the spiritual life and development of pupils and staff;
- The maturity and independence of the pupils.
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### **Focus for development**

- To complete the review of collective worship; link the review to the provision for the spiritual development of the pupils and keep the governing body fully informed.

### **The impact of the distinctive Christian character of the school in meeting the needs of learners is outstanding**

The aim of the headteacher and staff is to place the Christian ethos of Wellesbourne school, its values and principles, at the centre of its mission. The ethos is securely rooted in the application of these distinctive Christian principles and values. The Christian character of Wellesbourne is clear and overtly present throughout the school. The staff support wholeheartedly the Christian values of the school and there is evidence for this in most classrooms. The reception area has a Christian focus though it should be identified in a more positive and vibrant manner symbolising the Christian character of the school. Pupils spoke openly and frankly about the school and they were affirming of their teachers and the values the school espoused. Pupils

were all clear that Wellesbourne is a church school through the attitudes and example of staff, the acts of worship and the regular visits of the Incumbent and members of the church community, and they enjoyed the links with the church and the visits of the Incumbent. They were very positive about the quality of teaching, their relationships with all staff and the way in which teachers made learning interesting. Pupils find Wellesbourne school a very friendly place particularly concerned with the welfare of the disadvantaged, locally and nationally. They themselves raised the importance of charitable activities. There are very good links indeed with the Church through the Incumbent, the school Chaplain, and members of the Church community.

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

Collective worship at Wellesbourne has a direct impact on the values and principles promoted in the school. The planning is exemplary and the work of the Worship Co-ordinator is outstanding. The planning and preparation for worship is thorough and thoughtful, fully taking into account the spiritual development of pupils.

The act of worship attended was very good. Some pupils played an active part in setting up and running the worship and the whole school was fully involved, listening carefully and attentively throughout. They sang well and enjoyed the experience.

When asked, the pupils commented on how much they enjoyed the manner in which worship is presented and the opportunities for worship as a whole community. Pupils write prayers, say prayers before lunch and at the end of the day. They will leave Wellesbourne school having enjoyed collective worship and being stimulated by the themes and the manner in which those leading worship present the topics.

The impact of worship in the school is to enhance the spiritual life of the pupils; to provide them with a firm foundation for understanding the Christian cycle of celebration and festival; and to recognise how this is reflected in the importance of the beliefs, values and worship of a Christian community.

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

The headteacher is an inspirational leader who is able to share his vision of what Wellesbourne school should be as an inclusive church school with his governing body and management team. All staff and pupils at the school contribute to a relaxed, open and very welcoming Christian environment which is allied to a sense of energetic purpose and enthusiasm. Pupils have confidence in their teachers and know they will be supported and encouraged throughout their time in school. Pupils in year six appreciate the work of their teachers in preparing them to move on to other schools. *'I am nervous about going to a new school, but our school has made me ready to start again as the youngest in a school'*. They are both reluctant to leave yet eager to meet new challenges. There is a maturity of vision and purpose in the pupils across the age range that is encouraged in the school. There are outstanding displays on the walls in common areas and classrooms that are signposts and indicators of the pupils' creativity and imagination. The role of the foundation governors is well defined, and they are confident of, and committed to, their role. They need to be kept abreast of the review of collective worship and the broader implications such a review will have for the school. The headteacher consults parents and pupils regularly and there is a firm commitment to the local community, including the local church, while reaching out beyond into the other communities locally, nationally and internationally.