

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Weston St Mary Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

Small Drove

Weston

Spalding

PE12 6HU

Diocese: Lincoln

Local authority: Lincolnshire

Dates of inspection: 10th and 13th June 2008.

Date of last inspection: May 2004

School's unique reference number: 120557

Headteacher: Mrs Dawn Neal

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Ann Desborough - 62

School context

Weston St. Mary is a small rural Church of England Primary school, in South Lincolnshire near Spalding. There are 37 children on roll. All pupils are of White, British origin. There is a high percentage of children on the SEN register. 26% of children are eligible for free school meals.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Weston St. Mary as a Church of England school are satisfactory.

Weston St. Mary Church of England Primary school is a happy, friendly village school, where the Christian ethos is visible in the daily life of the school. Its effectiveness is apparent in the relationships and teamwork of everyone involved in the school.

Established strengths

- A friendly, caring, well managed school based on Christian values and attitudes.
- Well behaved, responsible children where the development of the whole child is encouraged.

Focus for development

- Complete the Church schools' self evaluation toolkit as part of ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the school as a church school.
- Establish monitoring and evaluation procedures for collective worship.
- Develop pupils' cultural awareness through external visits and visitors.

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

The school makes satisfactory provision to meet the needs of all its learners who feel safe, secure and valued. Relationships in the school are characterised by Christian care and love, with adults providing good role models. Through daily interactions with others Christian values impact on the personal development of the pupils. Colourful displays of Biblical stories, school aims, values, Christian artefacts and prayers give evidence of the school's church status. There are termly achievement awards and a points system which impacts on the good behaviour of the pupils. Conflicts are dealt with in a spirit of forgiveness and the school community believes issues are dealt with fairly and immediately. All pupils have the opportunity to develop their full potential and individual opinions are valued. The pupils are aware of healthy lifestyles through a strong personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum and through a variety of extra-curricular activities. The school is awaiting Healthy School accreditation.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development is satisfactory and is evident in assemblies and activities which nurture and encourage the pupils. Within the local

community, pupils have little access to other cultures. The school through topic work and resources found on display in and around the school seek to provide pupils with an understanding and awareness of our multi-cultural society. There is occasional involvement with other major world faiths and cultures through visitors to the school. A safe and new purpose built play area for the Early Years children allows them to appreciate the natural world through gardening and caring for animals and pets.

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

Collective worship at Weston school occupies a secure place in the daily life of the school. It is planned around an annual rolling programme of Christian values, the Church year and PSHE topics. All staff actively participate in the planning process, but no formal evaluation or assessment of the worship is undertaken. The two acts of worship seen during the inspection were a hymn practice relating to the theme of special people and a celebration assembly. The acts of collective worship conveyed clear Christian messages of thankfulness, forgiveness and taking ownership for our actions. Pupils were engaged and songs and the themes were age appropriate enabling pupils to reflect on their experiences. Thought provoking questions, to which the pupils respond positively, give them the opportunity to reflect on their own and others lives as well as the natural world. ICT is used to enhance acts of collective worship. The use of the school's suggestion box for prayer topics was incorporated into the final prayer. All pupils have access to collective worship, but not all staff attend. The school draws on its links with the local church and following the recent interregnum the new incumbent is keen to foster and develop a stronger partnership with the school.

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

The head teacher and governors provide effective leadership of the school and the Christian status of the school is evident on all documentation. Self – evaluation of the school as a church school has begun. However, no formal procedures for monitoring and evaluating the schools Christian distinctiveness are in place. There is no budgetary provision for religious education resources or for continued professional development for the staff. The schools leaders have initiated improvement in the quality of provision for collective worship since the last inspection, by purchasing ICT equipment , teaching resources and incorporating more music into the act of worship. There are rigorous planning systems in place for collective worship. The Governors are very supportive of the head teacher and staff and regularly visit the school. The pastoral and spiritual links with the parish church and local community are visible through the school's involvement in Church worship at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and the Flower festival. Parents believe that the school's Christian foundation is important and some parents have chosen to send their children to the school for that reason. The school enjoys active and regular support from the parents for assemblies, church services and fundraising events. The School council and PTA are proactive through their fundraising activities.

SIAS report June 2008 Weston St. Mary Church of England Primary School, Weston Spalding, Lincs. PE12 6HU.