

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Wickham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Buddens Road
Wickham
Fareham
Hampshire
PO17 5HU

Diocese: Portsmouth

Local authority: Hampshire
Dates of inspection: 10th July 2007
Date of last inspection: 1st – 2nd October 2002
School's unique reference number: 116325
Headteacher: Mrs Carol Burton
Inspector's name: Mrs. Val Palmer

School context

Wickham CE Primary School is a one form entry primary school and draws its children from the local village and surrounding area which have a mix of private and social housing. The village has been recognised as an area of social deprivation and the 178 children on roll come from a wide variety of social backgrounds. The pupils are predominantly from a White British background. The proportion of children with learning difficulties and disabilities is above average.

The school was founded almost 140 years ago and was rebuilt on its present site in 1969. Since the time of the last inspection the school has undergone major modifications and extension.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Wickham as a Church of England school are good

This is a good Church of England Primary school with outstanding features. A strong sense of community and mutual respect creates an environment in which learners grow spiritually and improve academically. The school's Christian ethos and core values actively encourage the pupils to be resourceful and responsible citizens.

Established strengths

- Pupil's personal development is well catered for and their views are expressed through a highly effective school council.
- There are outstanding opportunities for the spiritual development of learners and very good and effective use is made of the schools high quality building and extensive grounds.
- A consistent approach to behaviour management is understood and used highly effectively by all staff. There is a positive attitude and a strong sense of fairness.

Focus for development

- Develop the plans to update the School Prospectus and ensure it reflects the school's core values and the central importance of Collective Worship in the life of the school
- Continue to develop the links with the local church

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

Christian values are fundamental to the school, all pupils are valued highly and the school actively promotes properly supported inclusion. Attitudes generally are extremely positive because children know they are valued, cared for and respected by both adults and their peers. One child on the school council was able to articulate this well and explained that children's opinions and ideas were always taken seriously and acted upon.

A consistent approach to behaviour management is understood and used highly effectively by all staff. There is a positive attitude and a strong sense of fairness. All staff undertake their pastoral role sensitively and children recognise and feel personally supported with an understanding that any conflicts are dealt with speedily, compassionately and fairly in a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Religious Education is valued by the pupils and many of them were able to explain the impact of certain lessons: one learner related the powerful discussion she had had at home with her mother about believing in God following a recent RE lesson. The wide range of cultural experiences provided enable pupils to be aware of and receptive to other cultures

During the Inspection the Year 6 pupils took part in a challenging and inspiring RE day. The pupils were able to understand the themes and messages of the Christian story and then relate the impact the Christian story has for Christians today through their own drama.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship occupies a place of central importance in the life of the school and is viewed as a key element in promoting the school's Christian message. Themes are planned termly with the Curate and often fit in with the Christian calendar. The foundation governors visit the school and on a number of occasions during the year join in the worship. Learners were able to remember and reflect on the variety of Collective Worship in the school and made special mention of the Curate's weekly Act of Worship. During the whole school worship observed the children listened intently and respectfully to the story and were able to show by their response to questions that they understood the key message and could relate it to the biblical text used earlier in the week. They were given opportunities to reflect and pray with a candle as a focal point. The children all sang with tremendous enthusiasm and the hymns reflected the worship theme. Pupils are keen to write prayers for assemblies and talk positively of church services attended. Annually learners are asked what they like about worship and what they would like to change.

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

The quality of the school's self evaluation is good. Leadership and management have correctly identified the successes and have formulated a clear strategy for further improvement. Links with the local parish are being developed and are stronger than at the time of the last inspection: this is clearly evident in the close involvement of the Curate and her positive impact on the life of the school. The headteacher and her deputy articulate a very clear vision for the school and recognise the positive impact that the school's Christian ethos has on the lives of the learners. They lead by example and their commitment and dedication is inspirational. The staff all work as a mutually supportive and collaborative team and show a strong commitment to the school's aims and vision. All members of the school community were involved in drawing up the school's core values and vision statement and this can be witnessed throughout the school. Visitors receive a warm welcome from staff and pupils.