

## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

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

Church Street,  
Willersey,  
Broadway,  
Worcestershire  
WR12 7PN

#### **Diocese of Gloucester**

Gloucestershire LA

Date of inspection: 28 September 2006

Date of last inspection: 23 June and 3 July 2003

School's URN: 115661

Name of Headteacher: Mr Andrew Ferguson

Inspector: Mrs Carole May, NS 113

#### **Context**

Willersey CE Primary is a very small rural school with 50 pupils. It is set in a pretty Cotswold village bordering Worcestershire. Pupils come from a diverse income bracket. The school has had a recent unsettled history with three headteachers in three years. It is now entering a period of stability. The current head came to the school as an acting headteacher in September 2005 and, since January 2006 has been substantive headteacher.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Willersey Primary as Church of England School are satisfactory overall.**

This is an improving school. The clear vision and accurate view of the school's performance coupled with committed and enthusiastic staff has led to many worthwhile changes being implemented. The staff, together with the dedicated governing body are now working together systematically towards the fulfilment of the school's vision and the implementation of the ethos statement of 'providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs'.

#### **Established Strengths**

- The school's Christian distinctiveness is clearly articulated in documentation for parents and this is reflected in relationships throughout the school.
- Pupils are well cared for and their personal development is good.
- There are good links with other schools, the church and the local community.
- The governors are now closely involved in planning the direction of the school and in monitoring progress.

#### **Focus for Development**

- Further develop the role of the co-ordinator for religious education (RE), update the policy and ensure that provision for this subject is in line with current requirements.
- Improve the physical conditions for pupils during the daily act of Collective Worship
- Develop links with the parish church.
- Ensure that the plans for improving pupils understanding of other cultures and religions are fully implemented.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Willersey as a Church of England school are satisfactory.**

There is a welcoming Christian ethos stemming from the very good role models that the adults provide. Relationships are very good. Pupils enjoy school, they are cared for well and their personal development is good. Pupils and parents alike speak highly of the commitment of the staff. A strong feature of the school is the way that the older pupils look

after the younger ones, which contributes to creating a happy and caring community. Standards in the subjects tested nationally are rising and good provision is made in these subjects for the most and least able. The curriculum is broad and well balanced, but, as yet, the audit of opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum that was suggested in the previous denominational inspection report has not been carried out. A start has been made on implementing the new RE syllabus and some assessment of pupils work has been carried out in RE but there is a need for greater focus on levelling work accurately. Further training is needed both to implement the scheme and to carry out assessments more effectively. The programme for personal, social and health education is good and contributes well to the pupils' moral development but pupils' knowledge of other cultures is underdeveloped. The school has plans for improving this. As yet these are in the early stages of implementation. Pupils are developing an awareness of how to become good citizens. They regularly raise money for charity and readily take on responsibilities around the school. A newly formed School Council allows pupils a greater say in how the school is run. There is a good range of after school sporting activities for the older children, but at present there are no clubs for the younger pupils. Recently, questionnaires have been circulated to parents to canvas their help in increasing the range of activities on offer. The school has good links with other schools and the local community

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

Pupils and parents have a good awareness and appreciation of the school's Christian values. They particularly enjoy the celebrations that are held in the nearby church on special occasions. Since the previous inspection, the planning for worship has been improved and it now follows carefully thought out themes that develop the pupils understanding of Christian faith and practice and help pupils to think about important issues in life. Until recently, the vicar led worship in school once a week. Since his departure, other local ministers have stepped into the breach bringing a more ecumenical flavour to school worship. After each service, the headteacher carries out a brief evaluation. However at present pupils are not involved in this. The headteacher intends to address this. The act of Worship was well planned but lack of space in the school places serious restrictions on what can be done to enliven and enrich this. Consequently, a cross and a candle were, for reasons of safety, put up high on a filing cabinet making them ineffective as a focal point. Pupils were involved in acting out the Bible story, but their movements were strictly curtailed by the lack of floorspace. Despite these considerable inconveniences, pupils were well behaved, respectful and attentive and they sang the hymn enthusiastically. The headteacher accompanied the singing on the guitar and a celebratory atmosphere prevailed.

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

The school's documentation clearly proclaims the school's Christian Foundation. The good links with the church and the village help to ensure that the school is central to the community. Good examples of this are the 'welcome' meeting for new parents held in the church where refreshments are provided; and use of the village hall for physical education lessons. The governors, the headteacher and the staff of the school have effected some good improvements over the past three years particularly to the secular education of the pupils. However, the need to raise standards in the subjects that are tested and reported upon nationally has meant that the leadership and management of RE have taken a back seat over the past three years. The school is aware of the need to address this and has plans to work with another local school to implement the new local syllabus for religious education.