

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

William Lovell Church of England Voluntary Controlled Secondary School

Main Road,
Stickney,
Lincolnshire
PE22 8AA

Diocese: Lincoln

Local Authority: Lincolnshire

Date of Inspection: July 6th 2007

Date of last inspection: May 20th 2002

School's Unique reference number: 120664

Headteacher: Mr Robert Dring

Inspector's names and numbers: Paulette Bissell 88 and Michael Green 534

School Context

This Church of England school is a small but popular rural secondary school. It operates in an area where there is selection by ability and consequently there are fewer pupils with the highest levels of prior attainment than is normally found. There are more boys than girls and very few pupils come from minority ethnic groups. The proportion eligible for free school meals is low but the percentage of pupils with learning difficulties is well above average.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of William Lovell as a Church of England school are outstanding

This is because the Christian imperative of valuing all and supporting and nurturing them is lived out in every aspect of its life.

Established strengths

- An inspiring headteacher and senior leadership team who model the qualities of a Christian community.
- A fully inclusive school where achieving potential is of paramount importance.
- Positive relationships that are bound by care, support, trust and a clear sense of being valued.
- The effectiveness and impact of religious education in the life of the school.

Focus for development

- Completion of the SIAS toolkit as a means of affirmation and audit.
- Further develop the work being done to help pupils learn about people from different cultures.
- Continue the work in progress to link the school with its local Church.

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

This school makes outstanding provision to meet the needs of all its learners and as a result, there is a great sense of community where responsibility is taken seriously. This is evident in the support given by different groups of pupils to the range of activities and events that take place during the school year. Further evidence of this sense of community is seen in the well maintained and attractive premises, the positive responses of pupils to the behavioural code and the high quality lunchtime that centres upon a good range of food and the social interaction of staff and pupils eating together.

Everyone feels valued and supported by the headteacher and his senior leadership team who are very positive role models creating a caring and thoughtful community. Issues of concern are dealt with immediately through the application of consistent and clearly defined processes. Further supportive systems are also in place to help pupils feel safe and part of the community. One such example is the process whereby Year 10 pupils mentor Year 7 pupils. The merit system and the use of homework diaries as instruments to reward success, institute sanctions, gain parental support and improve standards of work and behaviour are key to the smooth functioning of the school. Everyone in the school is fully aware of the standards expected and the consequences of non compliance. As a result, a happy, disciplined, orderly and respectful community has developed from clear and fair guidance that is linked to the Christian values that are lived out through worship, religious education and in other areas of the curriculum. The distinctive ethos of the school is sufficiently explicit for everyone to be aware of it and to feel comfortable with the Christian dimension because the values expressed are clearly in evidence in the daily routines of school life.

The Christian ethos of the school permeates and underpins learning and the personal, social

and emotional development of people in the school community. This means that the pupils are confident and readily employable in the locality. Achievement in all aspects of school life is recognised and this was witnessed during the inspection through a celebration for a group of pupils who had just completed a canoeing course. Another example is a pupil with an illness who was given a party to celebrate the end of her medical treatment.

Religious education is a popular subject in the school and plays an important part in the lives of the pupils at both Key Stage 3 and 4 impacting on personal, social, moral and spiritual development. Standards of achievement are high in both key stages.

Pupils are proud to be at William Lovell School; they are well cared for, nurtured and guided in their growth and development. They feel that they are given responsibility, treated fairly and as a result, want to be at the school. This message is lived out in the local community and further a field resulting in the school being oversubscribed.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The daily collective worship is at the heart of the life of the school. Staff and pupils identify this time as being special and one that has an explicit Christian focus. The prefect lined corridor to the hall sets the tone for a completely calm and expectant atmosphere.

Participation takes many forms including singing. Bible narratives are widely used to emphasise the routine issues of school life. Collective worship focuses on Anglican traditions and permeates positive attitudes for all members of the school. Pupils are clearly encouraged and affirmed by the worship that takes place.

Collective worship is recognisably Christian and is seen as the time when religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights are shared in a meaningful way through Christian teachings. Worship is well planned with the themes clearly communicated to all participants. Clear and sensible guidelines are in place for people outside of the school leading collective worship. Music is played as pupils enter and leave the school hall. During the inspection a member of staff played the guitar to accompany the singing. The Headteacher led the collective worship and used photographs of pupils from a recent canoeing course to provide clear messages about self-esteem, positively managing challenges and the benefits of working as part of a team. Pupils comment on the usefulness of these themes within the worship time.

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

The inspiring leadership of the headteacher is recognized by all. He is remarkable in his commitment to creating a Christian based community which has systems that demonstrate fairness, forgiveness, love and hope. These can be witnessed as a daily part of the life of the school. The committed, hard working staff and governors fully subscribe to his vision for the school as a community bound together by Christian values that are demonstrated daily. The senior leadership team has been outstanding in developing the Christian dimension of the school. They work in a consultative way where individual views are considered and responded to, creating a school where consistency of approach is obvious. The governors too show a great commitment to Christian values and they underpin their own discussions about the life of the school. The Governors are very much a part of the school and actively promote the Christian ethos. This was demonstrated in the appointment of a new Head of Music where the Christian underpinning of the school was an area of exploration with all the candidates.

The religious education department is outstanding in the way it is led and managed. The subject has a high profile in the school and contributes significantly to the overall distinctive Christian ethos of the school.

The personal strengths and needs of everyone in the community are valued, recognized, considered, used and developed. Staff are happy and stay at the school for a long time and supply staff are willing and keen to join the school and feel very well supported. Parents have a high regard for the school and value the emphasis placed on religious education, citizenship and the development of moral values.

The leadership of the school is highly visible and united by a common belief that nurtures and supports the development and potential of everyone as an individual. The school very effectively lives out the principle that every person matters.

William Lovell Church of England Voluntary Controlled Secondary School, Main Road, Stickney, Lincolnshire PE22 8AA July 2007