

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Withycombe Raleigh Church of England Primary School

Withycombe Raleigh
Exmouth
Devon
EX8 3BA

Diocese: Exeter

Local authority: Devon
Dates of inspection: 21st June 2008
Date of last inspection: September 2001
School's unique reference number: 113355
Headteacher: Mr. Malcolm Elliott
Inspector's name and number: Janet Bond 247

School context

Withycombe Raleigh is a large Voluntary Controlled Primary school with 486 children. The majority come from the local village and surrounding areas. The school is over subscribed and is waiting for new buildings to replace a number of very old mobile classrooms. The majority of children are British and all are English speaking. The school has a higher than average number of children with statements of Special Educational Need.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Withycome Raleigh as a Church of England school are outstanding

This is a school community where the Christian principles of love and care are practiced. This is a school that empowers children and staff to achieve to the highest level. This is a dynamic and Christ centred school.

Established strengths

- Outstanding leadership providing a vibrant, high achieving Christian community
- Outstanding pastoral care where all are nurtured
- Outstanding relationships based on love and care

Focus for development

- Seek and record children's views on Acts of Worship

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

Children, parents, staff and governors are nurtured, challenged and supported in achieving their very best. This is the result of the school, through its distinctive Christian character, making outstanding provision for all. Christian principles and values are lived and are at the very heart of all the school does. All children thrive because they are happy, secure and confident. The level and range of pastoral care is outstanding, involving not only school staff and parents but many outside agencies and the incumbent. Every child is known and every possible form of support is provided. As a result all children thrive academically, physically and personally. This is an inclusive school. All children have access to a rich and extensive curriculum, where the sports and the arts are celebrated. Children are proud to represent their school. The choir, the orchestra and sporting teams are recognised both locally and nationally for their achievements and children's spiritual awareness is greatly enhanced through their involvement in music and the arts. Children understand the importance of health

and well being as a result of the excellent healthy eating and living programmes and awards. The children's Eco Council helps them understand and effectively practice stewardship of creation. Children's spiritual, moral and cultural development and their understanding of Christian values, as well as values of other faiths, are very effectively developed in religious education. Children relate teaching in religious education to their own lives and are articulate when discussing what they are learning. Concern for others is very well evidenced through the extensive range of charities supported and through children's involvement in community activities. Outstanding relationships within school contribute significantly in encouraging the very good behaviour children display. Children have plenty of opportunities to contribute to school life, to make decisions and to take responsibilities. They are very well prepared for future life. Parents speak very highly of the school and the provision made for the development of the whole child. They value the excellent partnership that exists between parents, the Church and the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Children respond enthusiastically and positively to the Acts of Worship which are well planned and imaginative and which they consider a very important part of the school day. Prayer, music and singing are central to the Act of Worship which reflects and supports the Christian foundation of the school. Children are confident and enjoy leading prayers, readings, hymns and playing in the orchestra. Children's moral values and their spiritual development are enhanced by the community worshipping together for the benefit of all. Christian teachings and values are introduced and reinforced and children gain an excellent understanding of the Anglican tradition. The incumbent leads a family Eucharist in school once a term. His excellent relationship with the children, parents and staff makes a significant contribution to their understanding of the importance of worship and the impact of Christian pastoral care. Special celebrations are held in the Church and children show a good understanding of the value of the Church within the community. As part of their fund raising, the school choir are performing "Joseph" in the Church next month. Time for reflection is valued by the children, and themes from worship and religious education are very effectively reinforced in circle time and personal and social education.

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

The headteacher, associate headteacher and leadership team, including governors, provide outstanding leadership in promoting and in living the Christian ethos which provides the Christian character of the school. The school's statement of intent, to put the principles of love and care into practice, are visible and evident. The strong and distinctive Christian vision is shared by all and is explicit in all aspects of school life. The headteacher is highly successful in promoting an outstanding team spirit where all feel valued, and where all are part of and contribute to, a loving, caring, challenging and supportive Christian community. This is enhanced through the excellent relationship with the church, with parents and with the local community. The views of all are sought, valued and acted upon. This, together with the strong Christian values that underpin all aspects of school life, allow all to give of their best. Pastoral care for all is outstanding. Children and staff thrive. This is a school that has established a culture of effective self evaluation, a school that strives to continually improve. Religious education is very well led and managed and very well resourced. The importance the school gives to inclusion, special educational needs and religious education is reflected in the budget made available and status afforded to them. Parents, children and staff greatly value the caring Christian ethos the school provides. Through the outstanding Christian commitment and leadership of the headteacher, staff and governors, this vibrant Christian community enables all to flourish.