

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

Wool Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

High Street,
Wool,
Wareham,
Dorset.
BH20 6BT

Diocese of Salisbury

LEA	Dorset
Dates of inspection	07.02.08
Date of last inspection	07. 2003
School's Unique reference number	113822
Name of Headteacher	Mrs. Lesley Craze
Inspector's name	Mrs. Joyce Bellamy
National Society inspector's number	112

School Context

Wool Church of England First School has 85 pupils on roll who come from a mixed catchment area including private housing, rented accommodation and a minority from Army families. The school's buildings offer bright and inviting accommodation and extensive grounds. The recently constructed "Spiritual Garden" is a great asset that is valued and enjoyed by all the school community.

Summary Judgement

Wool is an outstandingly distinctive and effective church school.

High expectations of all individuals are consistently promoted through a shared clear Christian vision for the school.

Established strengths

- The outstanding Christian ethos in which all pupils are nurtured and valued. The relationships throughout the school based on Christian love.

Focus for development

- Devise and implement formal procedures to monitor and evaluate Collective Worship.

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

Learners are justifiably proud of their caring, inclusive school and understand how the Christian values, which the school promotes so well, underpin every aspect of daily life. The relationships are excellent. The support network for SEN children and those with other difficulties function effectively because every child is known and understood by adults who consistently provide Christian role models for them. The positive learning environment is one where warmth and an enthusiasm for learning flourish. Pupils feel safe to take risks and know that mistakes are sensitively and calmly corrected. As a consequence pupils are very polite to everyone and tolerant of

each other's frailties and difficulties. Successes are enthusiastically celebrated by one and all. The views of pupils are taken into account through an active School Council whose activities have contributed to this ethos of caring for others within the school as well locally, nationally and internationally. Pupils understand they are unique members of God's world and the recent development of the spiritual garden is instilling an appreciation of the beauties of His creation and focusing on each individual's responsibilities for its maintenance.

The impact of Collective Worship on the school community is good.

Collective Worship lies at the heart of the school's mission to its pupils. Its significance in the daily lives of both children and adults is clear. The comment that "We turn our school hall into a church" is indeed true as the Christian signs and symbols are of very high quality and the atmosphere created as the children arrive is beautifully created. Festival and leavers' services are held in the adjacent Parish Church. Services there and at the regular good work assemblies conducted by the pupils are well attended by parents and other interested adults who highly commend them. All the teachers regularly lead worship in school as do the Headteacher and Vicar. Visitors are also welcomed. All leaders follow the well established pattern for daily worship and the children contribute appropriately and enthusiastically. The pupils are eager to talk about worship and say that they enjoy and learn from it. Worship is well planned by an able co-ordinator. The content of worship appears to be of a high calibre but formal regular monitoring and evaluation of it is not in place. Challenging themes are included, for example, within the title of "Trusting God" the question of what happens after death was sensitively and quietly addressed. The impact on pupils and adults was considerable.

The effectiveness of the Religious Education is outstanding

The impact of good quality Religious Education teaching is clearly vital to the whole school ethos. The subject has a high profile within the school and the pupils' attainment is comparable with the high standards achieved in the core subjects. It is planned and monitored in the same way as other curriculum areas. The co-ordinator is very knowledgeable and committed to her role which she approaches with commendable infectious enthusiasm. Care is taken to ensure that the lessons are inclusive for all pupils whether they come from a Christian family or not and everyone is comfortable to offer contributions in the knowledge that they will have a sympathetic hearing. The teaching is of a consistently high standard with the teachers using cross curricular links and strategies effectively. For example, on just one day, Information technology, art, hot seating, response partner work, music, drama, blindfolded trust games, diary writing, and poetry were all used to support learning in Religious Education. Learners from all ages spoke with enthusiasm about the subject and were delighted to show their work demonstrating commendable levels of understanding. The oldest children even requested that they be allowed to perform a drama from a previous topic emphasising the lasting impact the subject has on pupils.

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

The Headteacher and governors provide extremely strong and effective leadership in close partnership with one another. The whole governing body along with the adults of the school are clear about the school's Christian foundation and purpose. These are made very clear in all documentation, mission statement and job advertisements. Religious Education is well monitored but formal monitoring and evaluation is lacking in Collective worship. The leadership and management teams have supported Christian signs, symbols, Bibles and artefacts in every classroom and throughout the school. The golden rules, after discussion with all stakeholders, are prominently and

frequently displayed and are all linked to Biblical references. Parents and the wider community are extremely supportive of the school and links with the diocese and parish church are very good. As evidence of the pro active nature of the school's leadership team, plans are in hand to further strengthen the prayer links with the parish church community.

The Headteacher and her team must be commended on the enthusiastic and infectious warmth and genuine pleasure everyone feels when entering this truly distinctively Christian school.

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