



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Cheveley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Community Primary School

Park Road
Cheveley
Newmarket
CB8 9DF

Diocese: Ely

Local authority: Cambridgeshire
Dates of inspection: 16 July 2009
Date of last inspection: 19 July 2006
School's unique reference number: 110785
Headteacher: Julie Zak
Inspector's name and number: Bob Miller 357

School context

This school is smaller than most primary schools. It has 119 pupils on roll, almost all of whom live in the catchment area and are from a White British background. The number of children with learning difficulties is in line with the national average. There had been a high turnover of teaching staff in recent years but this appears now to have settled down over this past year.

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

Cheveley Church of England Primary School provides an ethos in which all learners feel valued and special. They are encouraged to succeed in areas where they have special interests and strengths. Relationships across the school are very good and are firmly rooted in Christian values which are lived and practised by the school community.

Established strengths

- The extent to which pupils feel valued and special.
- The manner in which collective worship develops pupil's understanding of Anglican faith.
- The surveys carried out with parents and pupils to evaluate the school's progress.

Focus for development

- Develop formal monitoring of worship and religious education [RE] by clergy and foundation governors.
- Include pupils at the planning stages of acts of collective worship.
- Develop a programme of visitors from other faiths.

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

Cheveley is a happy, caring school where the staff act as good role models, based on Christian principles. Pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities are cared for in an excellent manner and supported, as they seek to fulfil their potential. Children say they are respected, valued and listened to by staff. Parents say that the school provides many out of

school activities that bring a special quality that enables their children to gain 'a good all-round Christian education provided by a very caring staff'. Pupils love coming to school and enjoy the learning opportunities provided. Academic achievement is satisfactory but the teaching of religious education is good. The Christian identity is immediately recognisable inside the school entrance by a hand carved liturgical wheel showing the seasons of the Christian year together with their colours. The wall displays include the school's Mission statement. The creation of a sensory garden adds to pupils' spiritual development by offering a quiet space in an otherwise crowded play area. These features have a positive impact on the good provision for pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This represents good improvement since the last diocesan inspection. However, the lack of visits to places of worship and visits by people from other faiths detract from pupil's multi-cultural development.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Acts of Collective Worship, which are an important part of school life, take place in the hall. This space is converted into a special place by virtue of a lighted candle, cross and Bible on a table. This arrangement acts as a focal point for the children. Great care is taken to ensure that worship takes place in a well-organised and peaceful environment. Pupils say that when they sing hymns it makes them feel better and that they have a say in choosing the hymns and other songs. They enjoy being able to take part in re-enactments of Gospel stories but as yet are not involved in the planning stages of acts of collective worship. They say prayers before lunch and all are familiar with the Lord's prayer. Worship makes a valuable contribution to pupils' spiritual and moral development, by making them reflect on the issues of the day and think more deeply about their relationships with each other and the wider world. One pupil said "*We like songs and thinking about God*"

The Priest in Charge from the parish church leads worship regularly and this honours the Anglican tradition. This together with the "Godly Play" sessions in school gives pupils a clear idea of what is considered important by members of the Anglican faith. Other members of the church team are regular visitors and have an input to worship at the school and church, which consolidates the learning already taking place. Worship is well planned and co-ordinated, involving all staff in the discussions as to what "themes" should take place. Parents and the village community enjoy the opportunity to join the children for worship at school and in the parish church.

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

The high quality of the leadership of the head teacher contributes to its success. She promotes a clear Christian vision by being a good role model to the whole school community. She leads by example in a quiet but thoughtful and caring manner. She has secured a good team spirit among the staff members. The school has high expectations of the pupils. The good attitudes and behaviour towards each other reflect this. The school's management team and governors have established clear systems that inform the school's good self-evaluation. The foundation governors and clergy contribute to its success by their enthusiasm and passion to succeed as a church school and their excellent relationships with the children and headteacher. However the foundation governors' and clergy's formal monitoring role and evaluation of collective worship and RE is in need of development. This has been identified as a priority in the School Development Plan. Governors share the Christian vision for the school with parents and pupils who are regularly surveyed for their views. It is planned to survey staff for their views in an effort to raise the church profile still further. The nearby parish church is well used for school services, Christian festivals and as a learning resource. Parents speak very highly of all that the school does to ensure their children flourish as individuals. The capacity for the school to improve is good.

SIAS report July 2009 Cheveley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Community Primary school, Park Road, Cheveley, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 9DF