



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Cheveley Church of England Primary School

Park Road
Cheveley
Newmarket
Suffolk CB8 9DF

Diocese: Ely

Local authority: Cambridgeshire
Date of inspection: 15th December 2011
Date of last inspection: 16th July 2009
School's unique reference number: 110785
Headteacher: Mrs Julie Zak
Inspector's name and number: Gill Hipwell 480

School context

This small school serves the village of Cheveley and surrounding parishes. Although it is in Cambridgeshire it is very close to the Suffolk racing town of Newmarket. The village church is a short walk from the school. Since the last section 48 inspection both school and church have enjoyed a period of settled staffing.

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

Respect and reflection inform and strengthen everything that happens in this joyfully Christian school. A real and meaningful partnership between the school and its parish church adds value to the pupils' experiences of what it means to belong to a worshipping community. A strong sense of purpose reflects the Christian values which are deeply embedded in policy and practice.

Established strengths

- Pupils' mature understanding of the place and purpose of prayer
- The commitment of the parish church to the school
- The extent to which Christian values permeate all of school life

Focus for development

- Frequency and focus of pupil monitoring of collective worship
- Broadening opportunities to share in the planning and leading of collective worship
- The involvement of parents in monitoring and developing the school's Christian ethos

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

Pupils talk of warm and supportive relationships and commented on 'respect, the big value'.

They enjoy school and appreciate the care they are shown by their teachers, commenting on how their opinions are valued. They also spoke about responsibility for others, especially those whose lives are difficult, mentioning the boy they sponsor in Kenya and the fundraising they do for him and for other causes. They understand the role of the church in their school, talking about 'family' and describing the different church members who come into school. They consider prayer as an important aspect of school life and one in which they are fully involved. Classes have prayer books which are frequently updated and pupils talked about using prayer cubes or extempore prayer at lunchtimes and at the end of the day. The school has 'golden rules' and classes are encouraged to explore and adapt these. Pupils talked of the importance of consideration for others and of the concept of forgiveness. Great care has been taken to provide an environment which supports and encourages reflection, contemplation and exploration, ranging from an invitation in the entrance hall to add prayer beads to an interactive display to a beautiful sensory garden. Individual classrooms have displays celebrating the uniqueness of each pupil. Religious education has a high profile; significant investment has been made in the new co-ordinator and dedicated RE days are enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. Pupils talked enthusiastically about the previous half term's 'Lord's Prayer Project', describing what their own and each-others' classes had done.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Pupils enjoy worship, both in school and at half-termly church services. They are frequent leaders of prayer and all classes occasionally take on a bigger role. They particularly enjoy singing, although 'not the long songs' and welcome the time of quiet reflection. They are familiar with aspects of Anglican liturgy, including salutations and responses. The collective worship observed took place in the Parish Church. It was obvious that pupils - and their families - feel welcome and comfortable there and their confident, enthusiastic and respectful participation was an indication of a familiar routine. The content of the service was challenging, which the pupils seemed to expect. Participation from all age groups was good and the prayers written and read by the oldest pupils were exceptional. The school's Christian values are explored and reinforced in daily worship and classes pick up the values as part of the curriculum. There is reinforcement through displays. Much emphasis is placed on prayer and reflection in worship and pupils of all ages were able to give examples of how, why and where they prayed. Even the youngest pupils talked about valuing time to think, explaining that 'you can do it anywhere, not just in the hall or the church'. Governors monitor worship and pupils are surveyed at least annually.

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

Staff and governors regularly review the school's aims and values, ensuring that they are reflected in policy and practice. The resulting 'Statement of Purpose' is embodied in the excellent school brochure, a celebration of how the Christian ethos supports the educational journey of each individual child. The headteacher, Chair of Governors and incumbent head a committed team of staff, governors and church members who understand and cherish the Christian foundation. The headteacher has made embedding values in the day-to-day life of the school her priority, involving members of staff, governors and pupils in all major decisions to ensure stability and sustainability. Governors consider Christian values to be the foundation of educating the whole child and ensure that the distinctiveness of the school is regularly discussed at meetings, mirroring the school's culture of reflection. They are focused on pupils developing their individual potential and knowing that they are special to God. Good support from the Diocese has facilitated developments in this area. The incumbent is a frequent visitor, fully involved in all aspects of worship as well as exercising pastoral care. She encourages involvement from other members of the church community in a variety of roles including Godly Play, storytelling, reading and providing a worship band. They speak of modelling Christian service and see their role as embodying Christian values both in and out of school. The headteacher and the incumbent ensure that pupils have opportunities to contribute to church events, such as providing a choir for festival services. Whilst the significant improvements since the last inspection have been driven by current leaders, care has been taken to involve and empower others to minimise any disruption from future changes of personnel.