



## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

### **Folksworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Apreece Road  
Folksworth  
Peterborough  
PE17 3TY

#### **Diocese: Ely**

Local authority: Cambridgeshire  
Date of inspection: 11 September 2009  
Date of last inspection: October 2006  
School's unique reference number: 110812  
Headteacher: Caroline Adams  
Inspector's name and number: Simon Windmill 182

#### **School context**

Folksworth is a smaller than average school, serving the village of Folksworth. Most pupils are from White British backgrounds, and fewer pupils than average have disabilities or learning difficulties. The school holds the Activemark and Health Promoting Schools awards.

#### **The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Folksworth as a Church of England school are outstanding**

The school demonstrates a real commitment to living the values of the Christian gospel, while accommodating others of different or no faith. This has a very positive impact on the whole school and its wider community, and gives all pupils a solid grounding for their future well-being.

#### **Established strengths**

- The leadership of the Headteacher and governors, which sustains the school's Christian ethos
- The family atmosphere, in which pupils flourish
- The high quality of relationships and behaviour
- The positive impact of collective worship on pupils

#### **Focus for development**

- Widen pupils' involvement in planning and leading collective worship
- Analyse and use the results of pupil and parent questionnaires to inform future developments for the benefit of pupils
- Implement the new plan for nurturing pupils' spiritual development
- Provide more areas for quiet reflection inside the school and in the school grounds

### **The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding**

The headteacher, staff and governors see the school's Christian ethos as central to its life. Care and support for pupils and staff is outstanding, demonstrating Christian values, which are reflected in the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. Pupils feel valued and safe – one pupil said 'I always feel safe in school because the grown-ups always look after us.'

Behaviour is outstanding. Pupils have a real say in making the rules through an effective School Council, so they know the rules are fair, and willingly keep to them. Pupils get on exceptionally well with each other, and with staff, who provide excellent role models. Pupils respond well to the encouragement they get for taking responsibility for their actions and behaviour.

Pupils readily approach staff with any problems they have, knowing that they will be helped. Excellent relationships successfully support pupils in developing their self-confidence and independence. Pupils say they really enjoy school – one said, "I just love being at this school!"

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. They have a clear understanding of right and wrong, which is supported by the staff and the vicar, who also leads collective worship once a week. A new policy for fostering spiritual growth is being implemented.

Pupils' have a high awareness and concern for the needs of others, and they willingly help to raise money for charities, such as Operation Christmas Child, and sharing harvest gifts with the local community.

Pupils benefit from a wide range of extra curricular activities, including various sports, music, dance, board games and other activities.

### **The impact of collective worship is outstanding**

The head, staff and pupils see worship as central to school life. It is soundly based on Christian values, and always includes prayer, singing and teaching. The school's Christian identity is visually evident in the foyer.

Pupils and staff see worship as the focal point of each day. Pupils say they enjoy and value it, especially when taking part through drama, saying their own prayers or reading from the Bible. They like having a variety of leaders, such as staff, clergy and a Youth Leader. One pupil said, "I really enjoy assembly - it helps me learn how I should behave."

Pupils have a very mature understanding of the styles and purposes of prayer, like saying thank you or sorry, or asking for help, healing, or forgiveness. One pupil said, "I like having time for prayer when I feel stressed," and another said, "I say a prayer if anything is worrying me."

A candle provides a visual focus for worship, marking it as a special part of the day. Worship is well planned around themes reflecting Christian values and Church festivals, such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest, and these services are held in the school, which has increased the level of attendance of parents and members of the wider community. As the church is some distance away, other special services are held in the church once each term.

Worship is recorded and monitored, and the school has used pupil and parent surveys to evaluate its impact on pupils. Raw results are very positive, and the school is analysing the outcomes to inform future developments in worship.

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

The headteacher gives outstanding leadership to the school, and is exceptionally well supported by the staff and governors. Between them they promote a distinctive and active Christian vision for the school, with Christian values underpinning its life and work.

The staff feel highly valued and involved in the school's development. They all work well together, and enjoy the support given by the governors. This contributes greatly to the happy and supportive atmosphere among staff.

Staff, governors and pupils were all involved in developing the Christian ethos of the school. 'Church links' is an agenda item in all governor meetings, to ensure that there is always a productive link between church and school. The Foundation governors are members of the Parochial Church Council, which enhances the partnership between school, parents and the church.

Parent and pupil surveys show a very high level of approval for the school. Parents' comments include 'The school makes a real difference to pupils by promoting Christian values' and 'This school provides something over and above non-church schools'. A tiny minority of parents disagreed. Pupils' quotes included 'I wouldn't change collective worship – it's perfect!' and 'I really like having time for quiet reflection.'

Members of the wider community hold the school in very high regard. They acknowledge that the school's successful and purposeful family atmosphere is generated through its caring Christian relationships. Parents and the wider community feel well informed about the school's activities, and enjoy being able to get involved in its life in many ways.

Recommendations from the previous inspection were to monitor and evaluate collective worship, and to embed the spiritual development policy. These have been implemented.