

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Peter's Church of England Primary School
Myneer Park
Coggeshall
Essex CO6 1YU.

Diocese: Chelmsford

Local authority: Essex
Dates of inspection: 1st March 2013
Date of last inspection: 20th May 2008
School's unique reference number: 115108
Headteacher: Mr Peter Anderson
Inspector's name and number: David Bome 740

School context

Saint Peter's Primary School is located in the centre of Coggeshall. It is an above average sized Primary School with 324 children on roll taught in 12 classes. Nearly all pupils come from White British families, with a small number from different ethnic background. The school's links with the parish church of Saint Peters Church are strong.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Saint Peter's Primary School as a Church of England school are good.

Saint Peter's school is a good school with many strengths. A strong ethos of trust and respect underpins the working of the school. As a result, pupils feel valued and develop into independent, self-reflective and considerate young people. This is an inclusive school where every child matters. Supportive relationships result in pupils' positive attitudes, good behaviour and achievement.

Established strengths

- The well established and supportive family atmosphere and ethos of the school.
- The very effective Christian leadership of the school provided by the headteacher, supported by his staff and governors in developing and maintaining a culture where children's emotional and moral development can flourish.
- Strong links with the community and parish church which enhances the trust and mutual support between all stakeholders.
- The high quality of relationships between all members of the school community.

Focus for development

- To develop existing Christian values so that they are explicit and part of everyday life.
- To widen the children's involvement in the planning and delivery of collective worship.

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

The distinctive nature of the school is good. A very effective partnership exists between the school, church and community. The school makes very good provision for promoting the self confidence and self awareness of the pupils based upon Christian values. The school has rightly identified the need to make these more explicit so as to add to the strength of its Christian distinctiveness. Pupils are confident in their beliefs and how to conduct themselves in a caring and safe environment. They speak highly of the school and the staff and their enjoyment at being at Saint Peter's. One child commented "Saint Peter's is like our learning home – we are lucky, special and proud to be a part of the Saint Peter's community." The Governing Body are aware that a Christian ethos is embedded in many policies which they agree, monitor and review and that R.E. and Collective Worship have an important place in the day to day workings of the school.

The Religious Education curriculum has developed greatly in recent years; it now provides a rich and varied experience for the children. One child observed that they learn about other religions in R.E. which helps them know how they think about their God so that they can respect how they live their lives. They are proud of the strong sense of community that exists across the school which creates a strong atmosphere of trust where inclusion is a priority. A strong ethos of tolerance and initiatives such as the 'green room' coupled with the reflective areas in the school such as the hall displays help the children to develop confidence and develop into well rounded young people. Parents are positive about the school and speak of the community working together and of the clear and high expectations and standards.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship plays an important part in the life of the school and is appreciated by the school community as a whole. It makes a positive contribution to the strong family ethos of the school. The children are engaged during worship, they talk enthusiastically about collective worship and can link what they learn to everyday life – "assembly leaves us thinking about how we can become a better person". Since the last inspection a more creative approach has been taken to collective worship both in its organisation and content. Class assemblies develop self confidence and enhance the children's sense of responsibility, making them feel valued. However the involvement of the children in planning, delivering and monitoring collective worship on a regular basis is at present limited. Despite the parish church being in interregnum, links have remained strong and the children greatly value the assemblies led by Jules the Youth Worker, for example they clearly related his assembly on friendship to their day to day life. There are some elements of Anglican traditions in collective worship such as the lighting of a candle. This needs to be further enhanced by introducing other Anglican conventions for gathering and greeting. The parish church supports collective worship by hosting some important Christian festivals such as Christingle and Ash Wednesday. These are valued by children, staff and parents as they add much to the children's experiences of worship and elements of Anglican Worship.

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

The leadership and management of Saint Peter's Primary School are good. The strong vision and lead given by the headteacher and senior management is 'lived' by the whole staff and governing body which has a powerful influence on the whole school community. Leaders have established a secure environment which breathes Christian characteristics. The school is a happy and caring community with excellent relationships throughout. This extends into the wider community where the school is actively involved in supporting community activities such as the Remembrance Day service. The governing body acknowledge the vision and hard work of the Headteacher in promoting and establishing a strong Christian Ethos throughout the school where 'the person is more important than the system'. Staff feel valued and involved in the school's development; they work well together as a team and provide mutual support which contributes to the happy and supportive family atmosphere which is embedded throughout the school. Parents capture the importance of this stating "The nature of Saint Peter's being a church school is moulded into the fabric of the children's lives and learning". The Governors actively support the development of the school's distinctive Christian character by upholding such values in the way they operate and interact. School makes good use of continued professional development, including that offered by the Diocese, for both staff and governors. This has helped ensure that the importance of further developing the school's Christian character is an important part of the school's development plans. The governors uphold these values and closely monitor that they are reflected in the mission statement and actions of the school as well as being reflected in school policies. In turn this has put in place foundations to ensure that with new clergy in post at the Parish Church in April and a new headteacher in September the school is in a good position to continue to develop as a church school.