

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

**Margaretting Church of England V C Primary school,
Penny's Lane
Margaretting
Essex
CM4 0HA**

Diocese: Chelmsford

Local authority: Essex

Dates of inspection: 25th April 2012

Date of last inspection: 20th June 2007

School's unique reference number: 115116

Headteacher: Mr Andrew Gillett

Inspector's name and number: Julie Gibbons 739

School context

Margaretting is a small primary school with 61 pupils on role. The majority of pupils are of white British heritage and speak English as their first language. The proportion of disabled pupils and those with special educational needs is similar to that found in most primary schools and their needs are varied. The school has close links with the local parish church. The headteacher has been in post since November 2011.

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

This is a good church school where the strong staff team is moving forward with developments to enrich pupils' spiritual awareness and understanding of the school as a church school. Margaretting is a happy, caring school where the school values underpin daily life. All members of the community care about each other and pupils are happy and enthusiastic to be in school.

Established strengths

- The leadership of the headteacher and his commitment to further improvement
- The strong relationships in the school
- The strong links with the local parish church

Focus for development

- To develop robust monitoring and review systems for the school as a church school.
- To develop the school community's understanding of the school's values as Christian values.
- To develop pupil involvement in acts of worship

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

The headteacher has worked hard to develop the school's values. They are displayed in the school hall and around the school and they are a focal point for the school community. It is clear that children know what these values are and that the values do have an impact on the children's daily lives and their learning. However, the school community has not yet made the explicit link between the school's values and their Christian origins. This limits pupils understanding of why these values are important and how they can draw on them in their own decision making.

Relationships in the school are very good both between staff and children. This is a significant strength of the school. Staff have a good working relationship and work well together to address whole school issues.

RE supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils spoke of how their thoughts and feelings were valued and how they enjoyed their RE lessons. This was seen in an RE lesson where pupils were encouraged to work together and were keen to share their thoughts and feelings about what things were really important to them at home, both with each other and the whole class. The established house system enables pupils to take leadership roles and develop an understanding of what it means to share responsibility and work as a team to which all pupils belong. Pupils are keen to gain points for their House. House captains run meetings with their members which initiate change. Pupils were pleased to be able to take on the responsibility of choosing the music for their recent disco.

Changes to the school environment to enhance pupils' spiritual development have recently been put in place which includes a cross in the entrance hall, an RE area and a large display of the new school prayer. Pupils are able to talk about these changes and are beginning to be able to articulate why these things are important and what difference this makes to their daily lives. Good progress has been made in this area since the last inspection. Parents are fully supportive of the school. They are very happy that their children attend the school and are keen to share their views. Parents said that the school has a, 'Nurturing family ethos, and that 'Everyone is valued'. Parents also said that 'Staff are incredible, providing a fabulous education'.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

Worship is clearly an area which is important to the school and has been a focus for development this year. Many of the changes implemented by the headteacher have had a positive impact on the quality of worship. Children are quiet and attentive as they enter the hall. The atmosphere created by the music and foci used is appropriate and helps prepare the school for the act of worship. Children are attentive during the act of worship and are keen to participate. Children enjoy singing a variety of hymns and are pleased that they have recently learned some new ones. A recent pupil perception survey showed that pupils would welcome taking a more active role in assemblies.

Children look forward to the Reverend Jean's assemblies which are held every two weeks and enjoy being involved in these assemblies. The school has very strong links with the local church. Children lead services at the church at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the leavers service. Both children and parents speak highly of how much they enjoy these services and how special they are.

The school is developing the importance of prayer in worship and has a new school prayer. The recent pupil perception survey showed that pupils valued the prayer as they had all contributed to it. This is displayed in the school hall and is used in some assemblies. Children are beginning to be able to say the prayer from memory. Children enjoy writing prayers and some of these are read out in Friday assemblies. They would welcome the opportunity to share their prayers in more acts of worship.

A record is kept of the themes covered in assemblies. Worship is evaluated in an informal way which is taken into account in planning. A new pupil assembly journal for year 5 and 6 has just been introduced.

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

The headteacher has a strong vision for the school and has worked hard to involve staff and the school community in this vision. Progress has been made across many areas and the headteacher and staff are committed to maintaining this improvement. The headteacher has a clear strategic plan of how to develop the school as a church school. The school's values have been reviewed and although these values are now made explicit and are used to enhance and support all areas of the curriculum, there are limited opportunities for explicit links to be made between the school's values and their Christian origins.

The school has a very strong partnership with the local church. The rector of Margaretting church is actively involved with the school through being a member of the Governing body, leading assemblies and spending time in school. She is keen to develop these links further. This helps children's understanding of aspects of the Anglican tradition and supports the school's distinctive Christian character.

The governing body has worked supportively with the Headteacher and the whole staff to support the Christian vision of the school. This is seen in the way that they are fully supportive of the Headteacher's vision for the school as a church school and in its informal monitoring of worship. The governing body does not, however, have a formal cycle of review and monitoring. The school is beginning to include children and staff in the self- evaluation it undertakes. This has clearly been seen in its recent development of the school prayer, pupil assembly journal and pupil perception survey. It is encouraging to see staff and pupils' enthusiasm and commitment to new initiatives. The school is currently looking at ways to involve all stakeholders more in self- evaluation. It is clear that all the staff work very well as a team and are very supportive of each other. They are passionate about teaching and learning and are fully supportive of the headteacher. This gives the school a strong capacity to improve further.