

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

**St Andrew's Church of England Primary school,
Mandeville Rd,
Marks Tey
Colchester
Essex.
CO6 1HL**

Diocese: Chelmsford

Local authority: Essex

Dates of inspection: 11th January 2012

Date of last inspection: 3rd December 2008

School's unique reference number: 115081

Headteacher: Mrs Lelia Berkeley

Inspector's name and number: Julie Gibbons 739

School context

St Andrew's Primary School serves the village of Marks Tey near Colchester. It is a small Primary School with 166 pupils on role. The majority of pupils come from white British backgrounds and speak English as their first language. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and or disabilities is below average. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is below average. The school has close links with the local parish churches.

Established strengths

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

Focus for development

- To improve the strategic planning, 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 a shared view of expectations of worship across the school community.

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

St Andrew's 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. The headteacher and her leadership team have worked hard to develop the school's values. The school values are displayed in the school and in classrooms and they are a focal point for the school community. It is clear that children and parents know what these values are and that the values do have an impact on the children's daily lives and their learning. However, the pupils are not able to make the explicit link between the school's values and their Christian origins. 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. Children's behaviour contributes to the warm and positive atmosphere in the school. Class 4 demonstrated well their ability to work together, to listen to each other and their respect for one another's views in a 'Godly Play' lesson observed.

RE supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and is enhanced through the schools involvement in the 'Godly Play' project. Pupils spoke of how their thoughts and feelings were valued and how they enjoyed responding in a creative way during their 'Godly Play' sessions. There are many examples of children's politeness by opening doors for adults, greeting adults, willingness to talk to adults in a very thoughtful and open way. There

is an enthusiastic pupil council who have taken an active part in the review of the school's values.

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, 'Wonderful school can't fault it', 'Great teachers', 'We love it', 'It's fab'.

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 since the last inspection. Many of the changes implemented by the headteacher have had a positive impact on the quality of worship. Most 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. Most children are attentive during the act of worship but some lose focus at the end of worship as they leave the hall. Children enjoy singing a variety of hymns and would like the opportunity to sing a hymn in every act of worship. Children look forward to the 'Open the Book' assemblies which are held weekly and led by the 'Open the Book' team and enjoy being actively involved in these assemblies.

The school has very strong links with both the Anglican and Methodist local churches. Children plan and lead services with the Anglican rector. These services are held both in school and in St Andrew's church. Both children and parents speak highly of how much they enjoy these services This enables the children to have firsthand experience of different aspects of the Anglican experience and to develop an understanding of them.

Children enjoy writing prayers and some of these are used in class assemblies and published in the school's weekly newsletter. The children would welcome the opportunity to share their prayers in more acts of worship. Grace is said by each class in the classroom before lunch. Classes write their own graces which they are keen to share. However, it is not clear to children where they might offer prayers that are personal and confidential and how these are different from more public prayers.

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 whole school has been involved in reviewing the school values. 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 very strong partnerships with both local churches. The new rector of St Andrew's is actively involved with the school through being a member of the Governing body, leading assemblies, planning services with the children, spending time in classes and is keen to further develop these links. 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 whole staff to support the Christian vision of the school. This is seen in the way that they were actively involved in the review of the school's values and their informal monitoring of worship. The governing body does not, however, have a formal strategic plan for how it wants the school to develop as a church school or a formal cycle of review and monitoring. The school includes children and staff in the self evaluation it undertakes. This has clearly been seen in its recent review of its core values. It is encouraging to see staff and pupils' enthusiasm and commitment to new initiatives. The school is currently looking at ways to involve parents more in self evaluation. It is clear that all the staff work very well as a team, are very supportive of each other, are passionate about teaching and learning and are fully supportive of the headteacher. This gives the school a strong capacity to improve further.