



Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools
Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2006

DIOCESE OF LEICESTER

LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Cossington CE Controlled Primary School
Main Street
Cossington
Leicester
LE7 4UU

Inspection Date: 10th & 13th November

Section 48 Inspector: Mr David Dunmore (No 308)



SIAS Report Form

Name and address of school:	Cossington CE Controlled Primary School Main Street Cossington Leicester LE7 4UU
Type of school	Primary
Status:	Voluntary Controlled
Diocese:	Leicester
Local Authority:	Leicestershire
Dates of inspection:	10 th & 13 th November 2008
Date of last inspection:	24 th , 25 th & 27 th January 2005
School's Unique Ref. No:	120124
Name of Head teacher;	Miss Heather Sewell
Inspector's name (with N.S. No):	Mr David Dunmore (No. 308)
Context	
<p>Cossington is a small village school with 104 pupils. Children attend from Cossington, Sileby and surrounding areas. Almost all the pupils are from White British backgrounds. The headteacher was appointed in September 2007 and has strengthened the distinctiveness of the school. Several new appointments have taken place on the governing body.</p>	
Summary Judgment	
The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Cossington CE Primary as a Church of England school are good	
<p>The school has a strong caring Christian ethos based on Christian values, in which all the pupils are valued and encouraged to achieve their potential.</p>	
Established strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A warm friendly and supportive atmosphere with a deep care and concern for pupils.• A headteacher with a clear vision for this church school.• A stimulating environment to meet the needs of all the children.• Close supportive links with the church, the benefice, parents and the community.	
Focus for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an effective programme for the formal monitoring and evaluation of collective worship involving pupils, staff and foundation governors.• Provide support to foundation governors to empower them to bring a focus on the school's Christian ethos to the governing body.	

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

Christian values and the uniqueness of each individual are affirmed in collective worship and the daily life of the school. Children are clear that 'being good, forgiveness, respect for others and making up' are all important in making 'our school special'. Pupils are happy to come to school. There is a very positive climate for learning, with 'teachers who are fun and help you' enabling pupils to make good progress. Children with learning difficulties receive very good support, ensuring that learners' and parents' needs are met. Pupil achievement is recognised in weekly award assemblies which celebrate good work, positive contributions and help for one another. Behaviour is good and older pupils welcome and care for the younger ones. Children describe, with enthusiasm, the range of lunchtime and after school activities, such as visits to Beaumanor Hall and Derbyshire, which enrich their education. In addition to contributing school news to the benefice newsletter, many pupils take part in summer holiday clubs and Easter and Christmas activities organised by the Children's Ministry Team, enabling them to see the Church and school offering support to one another. Events arranged by children and staff, offering help to others 'show we are a caring school'. For example £30 given to each class can grow to £100 for charities like Rainbows, Barnardos etc. through a range of fund raising activities. The School Council provides the children with a voice in improving their school. A recent focus, 'help and care for each other' resulted in decision making about an outdoor buddy bench and play equipment for lunchtime and playtime.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good

The daily act of collective worship provides an important opportunity for pupils and staff to affirm their Christian faith, learn more about Jesus and 'enable his love 'to pervade the whole atmosphere of the school'. The headteacher plans a termly programme of acts of worship, with resources to support and assist planning. Using the Bible, other stories and special celebrations, exemplifying Christian values like love, forgiveness and reconciliation for Remembrance Day, ensures relevance to pupils' lives. Children begin each act of worship in a calm, respectful manner, listening attentively, offering ideas and answering questions thoughtfully. Music and action songs are used effectively to enhance their enjoyment and understanding. The lighting of a candle, along side the cross, introduces a quiet time for reflection before a final prayer, which is sometimes written by the children. Pupils talk confidently about 'getting together as a whole school' for worship, saying thank you that 'God made the world for us' and 'learning about people who met Jesus'. Pupils are aware that prayer plays a significant part in their lives; praying together, 'helps us to think about what has been said' or about 'my family and friends' and 'praying for my Dad in Iraq'. Class assemblies, actively involving pupils, provide an opportunity for them to make their own valuable contribution to school worship. Presentations made by the Incumbent, the staff and members of local churches provide a variety of worship which the children value and enjoy. Colourful and attractive displays in the hall provide a visual focus to support worship themes. Monitoring and evaluation of school worship has begun but needs to be more regular and purposeful. Parents speak highly of the school's Christian focus and 'strong links with local churches'. They valued the 'welcoming attitude of staff and the way in which the whole community is invited to join with the school in worship'.

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

The headteacher provides clear, purposeful and effective leadership supported by the deputy headteacher, staff and parents. The school's Christian foundation and the values that flow from it underpin all aspects of school life, ensuring that pupils feel safe, well cared for and valued. The headteacher's expertise in setting and realising the school's tracking and evaluation procedures is proving effective with appropriate objectives in order to raise standards. In addition to new personnel, the governing body is currently undergoing a number of organisational changes, led by the headteacher. The involvement of governors in liaison, decision making and support for the headteacher and staff is satisfactory. The need for a more proactive series of focused visits to monitor and evaluate progress and achievement and in particular religious education and collective worship, has been identified, to enable governors to fully discharge their responsibilities.