



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

Diocese of Leicester

Leicestershire Local Authority

Weavers Close Church of England Primary School

Alexander Avenue
Earl Shilton
Leicestershire
LE9 7AH

Inspection Dates: 23rd March and 28th April 2009

Section 48 Inspector: Mr D G Jones (No: 166)



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

School name and address:	Weavers Close Church of England Primary School Alexander Avenue Earl Shilton Leicestershire LE9 7AH
Diocese:	Leicester
Local authority:	Leicestershire
Dates of inspection:	23 rd March and 28 th April 2009
Date of last inspection:	7 th to 9 th February 2006
School's unique reference no:	120128
Headteacher:	Mrs Jean Buckby
Inspector's name (and no):	Mr D G Jones (No: 166)
School context	
<p>Earl Shilton is a large community supporting two Church of England primary schools in very close proximity to each other to the west of the county and close to the town of Hinckley. It once supported many factories. There are 210 pupils aged 4 to 11, all from white British backgrounds and mostly from the designated area. The proportion with learning difficulties and who have free school meals are both well above the average. There are no withdrawals from collective worship. For 12 months the school has been successfully trialling co-headship models.</p>	
The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Weavers Close CE Primary School as a Church of England school are good.	
<p>The school is firmly committed to its Christian foundation, with excellent relationships amongst pupils and staff, creating a school that is popular with pupils and parents.</p>	
Established strengths	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• firm commitment to the school's Christian foundation with good links to the parish church;• well planned collective worship with some outstanding delivery contributing to spiritual and moral development;• excellent relationships based on Christian values and shared by the whole school community;• strong links with parents, who share confidence in the school.	
Focus for development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop proposals to link with another school with pupils from many cultures and faiths, to enrich the experience of pupils;• develop procedures to evaluate the impact on pupils and parents of the school's Christian ethos and commitment.	

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

The school is committed at all levels to encouraging and enabling all learners to achieve as much as possible through good teaching and a well developed awards system. Children therefore feel good about themselves and are proud of their school. Communications with parents, community groups and the church are very good. Parents in turn are very supportive of the school and have a high regard for the teaching and care offered. Children are pleased to serve and entertain community groups, especially the elderly, with confidence and empathy. These achievements are firmly based on the Christian values to which the school is committed. There is a strong emphasis on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development across all curriculum areas and throughout the life of the school, and this is successful. Recently there have been effective displays of pupils' work about remembrance (lest we forget), and many about other faiths and cultures (including Chinese New Year, Rangoli patterns, Rama and Shiva, Islam and the Christian nativity) These are recorded in a series of photographs. Pupils visit the parish church regularly and have the opportunity to visit places of worship of other faiths. The school has actively looked at ways it relates to different communities, both locally and nationally, and has identified the need to create a link with a school whose pupils are from a different faith and culture. This is currently being explored. Pupils have written prayers at Easter time and show an understanding of God's love in Christ. Relationships and behaviour are very good.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is good.

Acts of worship are well planned and varied and follow themes suggested in diocesan guidelines which include Christian festivals, biblical and other stories and the Christian values exemplified in the teachings of Jesus. Delivery is at times outstanding with a biblical story told in a way to which pupils would easily relate, with much participation and good use of personal items to make the questions posed very real. Worship is led by the senior management team, by local clergy and by groups of pupils. Worship takes place in the parish church at festivals and end of year and these are well attended by parents. Children enjoy and are enthusiastic about worship and recognise the distinctive nature of worship in church. The school is fortunate in having a regular pianist for worship, and pupils sing well and with pleasure. Pupils also join in prayers: some are written by pupils themselves, and there is a school prayer which the pupils know well. The Lord's Prayer is said at times. A prayer is also said before lunch, and pupils know this very well. Worship is evaluated regularly by the headteacher at the end of each theme and by governors attending individual acts who report formally to the governing body.

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

The headteacher has a clear vision of the school's Christian purpose, which is shared by teachers and governors. Pupils receive a consistent lead and an understanding of Christian values such as forgiveness and reconciliation and of the new start that is available to them. Such united leadership has enabled standards and achievements to be raised significantly since the last inspection and the recommendations made there have been addressed. The School Council addresses the needs of the school with enthusiasm and makes an important contribution to leading the school forward. For example they wrote the school prayer, drawing on the school's golden rules, and are also consulting about outdoor facilities such as a willow tunnel and a climbing wall. The Rector gives high priority to supporting the school as a governor and pastor and the involvement of other church ministers as governors is invaluable. The governors receive reports from the headteacher and from visiting governors on Christian ethos and worship, thereby contributing well to the school's leadership and management.