



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

Diocese of Leicester

Leicestershire Local Authority

**St. Cuthbert's Church of England (voluntary
controlled) Primary School**

The Chase
Great Glen
Leics
LE8 9EQ

Inspection Date: 13 & 19 Jan 2010

Section 48 Inspector: Mrs. Marian Driver (No: 116)

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

School name and address:	St Cuthbert's Church of England Primary School The Chase Great Glen Leicestershire LE8 9EQ
Diocese:	Leicester
Local authority:	Leicestershire
Dates of inspection:	13 & 19 January 2010
Date of last inspection:	28 & 29 June 2007
School's unique reference no:	120131
Headteacher:	Mrs. Anne Burbidge
Inspector's name (and no):	Mrs. Marian Driver (No: 116)

School context

St. Cuthbert's Church of England school is situated in the attractive village of Great Glen. Pupils attend from this village and surrounding smaller villages. There are 204 pupils on roll, mostly white British. The buildings and attractive outside environment provide many opportunities for learning. The headteacher joined the school at the beginning of the Autumn term 2009.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St. Cuthbert's as a Church of England school are good.

St. Cuthbert's is a happy and inclusive school which provides a supportive learning environment based on Christian values. The provision for spiritual, moral and social development is good and the pupils gain much from this individual development. The school has strong support from the local church and is an integral part of the village community.

Established strengths

- Strong commitment to the Christian foundation.
- The close relationship between the school and the local church with effective links with the community.
- The high quality of relationships within the school
- A caring ethos with a welcoming family atmosphere

Focus for development

- Involve staff and governors more fully in a programme of monitoring and evaluation in collective worship and Christian distinctiveness.
- Explore different ways to encourage the understanding of cultural diversity

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

St. Cuthbert's has a warm and welcoming atmosphere in which pupils and adults feel valued both as individuals and as a team. Pupils are aware of and respond to the school environment which highlights a distinctive Christian ethos. Encouraging gifts of the spirit is clearly promoted by the interactive display board entitled 'kindness' where pupils are invited to record how they are helped by others in school. The high quality of relationships throughout the school community encourages the exemplary behaviour. Pupils in the school council enthusiastically work to positively impact upon the life of the school and understand the need to support different charities both locally and nationally. "They need the money more than we do," said one member. The wooden cross and 'our candle' in the reception area are complimented by the displays in the hall and classrooms

which challenge and encourage pupils to think and reflect on Christian values. Prayer is an important part of school life with grace being said before lunch and with pupils writing their own prayers for school events and church services. Parents feel that the family atmosphere in the school where older pupils help younger ones, for example year 6 sitting and eating lunch with the pupils from the foundation year, encourages good relationships and gives pupils confidence. Pupils feel that staff are approachable and help them by telling them how to tackle problems. Visits are made to places of worship of other faiths.

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

Acts of worship are well planned and follow the diocesan guidelines. Staff attend each act of worship and sometimes become involved. During the worship times observed, the pupils listened with interest and answered questions that linked to previous Christian knowledge. Their contributions were valued and added to the overall understanding. The grouping in a semi-circular way with 'our candle', a model of people with linked arms and a lighted candle created a calm, worshipful atmosphere. The use of the digital projector using pictures and video were used sensitively to enhance the worship time and to create links to the real world. The headteacher used a video clip made at a local school to illustrate the diversity of gifts pupils have. Pupils benefit from the regular Anglican teaching and the friendship given by the vicar. They know the Lord's prayer and use it regularly. At times the vicar uses different parts of the prayer to illustrate the point she is making. Pupils are given an opportunity to experience a Christian community and this helps to influence their day to day actions. Pupils take part in church services once a term. They also benefit from workshops organised by the local church community and participation in RE teaching in school. The headteacher encourages the use of music to make worship enjoyable. The pupils sang well, accompanied by the school musical group which added an extra dimension to the worship. The younger pupils were so moved by the song played that they sang it spontaneously as the older pupils left the hall. The headteacher and staff evaluate worship informally but it would be beneficial if worship were evaluated formally by the staff and governors.

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

The headteacher, staff and the governors are committed to the school's Christian foundation and work together to create a caring ethos which values each individual. School documents promote the Christian character of the school. The headteacher ensures that Christian values underpin all aspects of school life and these make an important contribution to each child's personal development. Staff work well together to create a positive atmosphere and their team spirit is valued. Foundation governors are closely involved with the school and as frequent visitors enable a strong link with the parish church. Parents are supportive of the school and know that their pupils benefit from its safe, caring Christian environment. The headteacher is committed to developing strong local village links and in exploring opportunities to link with other countries to develop further international links e.g. China /Africa. The headteacher is working closely with the governors on aspects of school self evaluation and this approach will add greater value to the church school evaluation.