



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

# Diocese of Leicester

Leicestershire Local Authority

**Higham on the Hill Church of England  
(voluntary controlled) Primary School**

Main Street  
Higham on the Hill  
Warwickshire  
CV13 6AJ

**Inspection Date: 6 January 2010**

**Section 48 Inspector: Carole Jefferson**

# National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

<b>School name and address:</b>	<b>Higham on the Hill Church of England Primary School</b> Main Street Higham on the Hill Warwickshire CV13 6AJ
<b>Diocese:</b>	<b>Leicester</b>
Local authority:	Leicestershire
Dates of inspection:	6 January 2010
Date of last inspection:	26 – 28 March 2007
School's unique reference no:	120133
Headteacher:	Mrs Nicola Walsh
Inspector's name:	Mrs Carole Jefferson

## School context

This much smaller than average primary school, serves the village community of Higham on the Hill and the surrounding area. Most of the children are of British white heritage, with a small number of minority ethnic children coming from Kings Lodge, a nearby missionary training centre. The proportion of pupils who have learning difficulties or disabilities is below the national average, as is the proportion of pupils who are eligible for free school meals. The head has been in post since Easter 2009.

## The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Higham on the Hill as a Church of England school are good

The ethos of Higham on the Hill Primary School, is rooted in Christian values and emphasised in the recently agreed aims 'Learning to learn, inspire and be inspired, value everyone and everything, enjoy and achieve'. Everyone - the school, St Peters church, village residents, adults and children, are encouraged to be involved in a mutually supportive affiliation. Excellent relationships exist throughout the school, ensuring that there is a calm atmosphere where children feel secure and valued.

## Established strengths

- Clear Christian vision, promoted by the headteacher and co-ordinator for collective worship and RE, supported by a committed team
- Recently developed strong links with St Peters church and the village, which has placed the school at the heart of the community
- The children's value of, and participation in, collective worship,

## Focus for development

- Develop the role of governors to include them in the self evaluation of this as a church school
- Action matters arising out of the evaluation in the school development plan
- Develop staff and governor awareness of issues surrounding the distinctive Christian character of church schools by asking the diocesan team to provide training

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

Christian values permeate every aspect of the school's life. Parents and children value the "care that extends to all" from all school staff. According to one child 'Teachers care about you and notice if you are looking down (unhappy) and ask if you're OK'. The Christian character is proclaimed around the school. There is a cross in the reception area, on the school badge and in all documentation. There is a prominent display in the hall. In lessons, children demonstrate respect and sharing, as was seen in a lesson where the Jewish new year was the focus. Apple slices and honey, signifying God's bounty and the sweetness of his creation were passed around politely and enjoyed by the children. Likewise in a lesson about the Epiphany, with the coming of the Kings, children were asked to say what gift they would bring to the baby Jesus. Gift suggestions included toys from the children's own collections to 'a beautiful butterfly'. The recently agreed themed curriculum has been planned in such a way that major world religions are explored and visits are now made to places of worship of other faith groups. Children and parents value the close links that now exist with St Peters church and attend the church as a school for special occasions, such as the Christingle service before Christmas. Parents value the friendly welcome given to them and the fact that staff are always willing to take the time to speak with them. They like the way that their children have settled into the school and enjoy their work. Children and parents speak highly of the way that concerns are dealt with speedily and problems resolved by taking account of all points of view. The school council enables the children to contribute to the development of the school. They are proud of their charitable giving and are raising money to send a cow to an African village – 'A pregnant one so that other families can be given a calf'. A peace garden for private reflection is undergoing development by the children with help from school staff and the Parents and Friends.

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

Prayer plays an important part in the life of the school. Collective worship is planned for the last session of every afternoon and staff usually attend, so that everyone can 'Stop, think, reflect together, feel the sense of community and thank God'. Teachers share the leading of collective worship with the headteacher and the vicar on a weekly rota and children enjoy taking part especially when their teacher is the lead. Children participate in collective worship by role play, giving readings, saying prayers and by singing enthusiastically a range of Christian themed praise and worship songs. Evaluations carried out by the collective worship co-ordinator show that children particularly like singing. Grace is said with the whole school together before lunch. All members of the school community are given the opportunity for prayer and quiet reflection. In addition to the daily act of collective worship there is a reflection table in the reception area, displaying a prayer and a jar of coloured pebbles. Everyone is invited to bring their concerns to God by placing a pebble from the jar into a dish, which is then taken into assembly, confident that 'Whenever you need help, you ask Him and He helps you, He made the world and He cares about you'. Achievement is celebrated every Friday afternoon, when members of the village and parents, are invited to join in. Children are invited to nominate class mates to be recipients of the 'Best friend award.' The wording of 'Happy Birthday to you, God's blessing on you' has gone from the school into the family lives of a number of pupils.

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

The head teacher and the re/collective worship co-ordinator have provided strong leadership for developing and articulating Christian values and how they should be encouraged in the school. The school and the wider community, parents, village and St Peters church have been enabled to provide mutually supportive help. Whilst the headteacher attributes the level of development of the school as a church school to the hard work by everyone, parents and governors say that the impact of the headteacher has been 'massive' in bringing about necessary changes. The headteacher attends baptisms in St Peter's church so that the school can promote its position at the heart of the village. Parents and governors remember with warmth that the headteacher introduced herself to the village soon after her appointment and immediately made plans for the school to be involved in the church fete by providing a display of Maypole dancing. The vicar and headteacher together have developed good links, providing prayerful support. Governors are developing their role; they have attended teacher training days. Self evaluation by school staff is carried out effectively and should now be used to inform further development planning. Governors have not been involved in the school's self evaluation, and they need to be. The leadership effectively promotes a distinctive Christian vision for education and with advice from the diocese, the school has the capacity to make good progress in developing as a church school.