

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

St Paul's CE (Controlled) Primary School

Meadow Road
Woodhouse Eaves
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE12 8SA

Diocese: Leicester

Local authority: Leicestershire

Dates of inspection: March 29th 2011

Date of last inspection: November 2007

School's unique reference number: 120173

Headteacher: Mrs Cal Hurst

Inspector's name and number: Mrs Carole Jefferson (669)

School context

St Paul's is a popular, average sized rural school, which serves the immediate village and a wide, diverse surrounding area. St Paul's has won a number of nationally recognised awards, including the Healthy School Award, Active Mark, Eco Schools' Award, and the International Schools' Award at Foundation and Intermediate standards. Half of the pupils come from out of the designated catchment area.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of St Paul's Woodhouse Eaves as a Church of England school are Outstanding

The school is rightly proud of its family atmosphere in which all can feel included and have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. The school is very committed to its Christian ethos which makes an outstanding impact upon the pupils' personal and academic achievements.

Established strengths

- The inclusive nature of the school in which all have a strong sense of belonging to the school family and the local community.
- Pupils' involvement in the daily act of worship and the impact of this on their spiritual Development.
- The clear Christian vision of the leadership and management and their determination to build on current strengths.
- Thorough monitoring and evaluation involving all stakeholders.

Focus for development

- Develop the recently agreed systems for Governor monitoring and evaluation and enlist the support of the Diocese in the above work.
- Foundation governors to develop their own action plan in the school development plan.

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

'Friendly, caring, helpful, fair, respectful, inclusive' are some of the words used by stakeholders to describe St Paul's, demonstrating that Christian values are at its heart. As such the school makes a positive impact on the spiritual development of the pupils. It is for this reason that some parents choose this rather than their local school. Sharing and caring extend to all who come into school, from the very first contact made. Parents are appreciative of the support given to them. A parent said that school staff 'go out of their way to help'. Difficulties are overcome speedily, fairly and in a timely manner. Wrong choices are forgiven and reconciled quickly 'every day is a brand new day'. The pupils are happy in school. They say that the 'exciting learning' and the 'kindness of the teachers' are some of the features of school life which are most important to them. The children's behaviour and their attitude to work are outstanding. They show a high level of care, respect, and kindness towards each other and to visitors. At St Paul's, everyone's contribution is valued. Children's individual needs are catered for and those with additional needs are supported by staff and pupils alike. The school values the contribution that those from other faith communities make in enhancing learning about different religions, by developments in the curriculum and collective worship. The school has achieved the International Schools' Award and has developed

impressive links with global communities as well as other local faith communities. Pupils support local and national charities, such as Comic Relief, Children in Need and Seeds for Africa. 'We are helping people to know how to grow food for themselves'. Pupils initiate fund raising following ideas developed in the wider curriculum, for example 'buckets of pennies for buckets of water' raising money for Water Aid. Pupils work with the wider community to ensure that help is targeted appropriately, for example in the sale of harvest gifts. They 'help those less fortunate than we are'. Children are keen to serve their community by taking on a range of responsibilities within the school such as being telephonists, training to be assembly technicians and leading acts of worship. Children serve on the school council, the ambassadors' group, and the school forum, to ensure that everyone's voice is heard. The ambassadors group re-wrote school values in child friendly language and they took great care to ensure that even the youngest pupils understood. Relationships between all sections of the school community are warm, supportive and are borne of respect for one another. Adults model polite, friendly behaviour and in turn, children do so for the benefit of their peers. Children are keen to earn awards for good attitudes and attendance. Everyone marvels at the beautiful rural setting of this school. As a child said, it's an immediate reminder of 'Gods wonderful creation'. Every classroom has a view. Within the grounds are areas for quiet reflection, for example Nina's table, a memorial for a former pupil. Displays in the attractive, well maintained building reflect the multi faith makeup of the school as well as honouring the Christian tradition. Displays celebrate achievement, challenge stereotypes, and promote a global understanding. The children are particularly proud of the Gómez crosses that they made to display in the hall.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is central to the life of the school. Children enjoy collective worship, especially when they lead it themselves. They enter the hall respectfully and enjoy taking part, singing, acting and reading. Children write their own prayers for use during worship. 'We get to say thank you but we also ask God to help other people such as in the (recent) Japanese disaster'. Children say that assembly is a time when they can be quiet with their own thoughts about being a nicer person and what they need to change to improve. They like to celebrate achievement or learn about Jesus. The act of worship which was observed was imaginatively planned. Year 5 gave a presentation about their visit to the Jain temple, the Buddhist centre and Leicester Cathedral. They sang a rain song from Africa. The assembly involved a high level of pupil participation and made a significant contribution to the pupils' spiritual growth. The children were fully engaged with all aspects of worship and responded thoughtfully to questions. 'We were inspired' a child remarked. Children know a range of praise and worship songs and sang a verse from their favourite. Ministers from the local churches visit weekly to take assembly, which enhances the mutually supportive relationships within the village. Year 3 has taken photographs of St Paul's Church, to make a multi media resource for use by the incumbent. They were thrilled to see a kneeler featuring Leicester Tigers. Children and parents enjoy going to St Paul's church as a school for services.

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

The head teacher has a clear vision for the development of the school as a church school and communicates this successfully to its stakeholders. Documentation and the website are presented in an engaging and accessible way and make it very clear that the school is proud of its status as a church school. Effective monitoring and evaluation is carried out by the senior leadership team, governors, local ministers and the children. The outcomes inform future developments. The governors work pro-actively within the school and take a keen interest in developing the effectiveness and distinctiveness of the school as a church school. They have joined in with the school's senior leadership team in completing the self evaluation and have a systematic method for monitoring and review. They understand the school's priorities and support the head teacher in meeting these priorities. The head teacher ensures that all new staff and volunteers are inducted in such a way as to promote the school's strong Christian ethos. The school's partnership with the local community is excellent, with local church congregations offering prayerful support. The school sees itself as being at the heart of the community and, as a result, the pupils gain considerable benefit. An effective system of distributed leadership ensures that colleagues grow into new leadership roles.