



The National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools
(Carried out under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005)

Hall Orchard Church of England Primary School

Inspection Report

Address of School:	Church Street Barrow on Soar Leics. LE12 8HP
Telephone Number:	01509 412188
Email Address:	reception@hall-orchard.leics.sch.uk
School Category:	Voluntary Controlled
Unique Reference Number:	120112
Type of School:	Primary
Diocese:	Leicester
Local Authority:	Leicestershire
Inspection Date:	30 th March 2011
Reporting Inspector (and No):	Mrs Wendy Martin (No. 168.)
Appropriate Authority:	The Governing Body
Chair of Governors:	Mrs Louise Dallow
Headteacher:	Mrs Jane McKay
Pupils on school roll:	411

Hall Orchard CE Primary

Church Street
Barrow on Soar
Leics.
LE12 8HP

Diocese: Leicester

Local authority: Leicestershire
Dates of inspection: 30th March 2011
Date of last inspection: 17th & 18th June 2008
School's unique reference number: 120112
Headteacher: Mrs Jane McKay
Inspector's name and number: Mrs Wendy Martin (No. 168)

School context

Hall Orchard is a large primary school opposite the parish church in the village of Barrow on Soar. There are 411 pupils on roll, mostly from white British backgrounds. The school serves a mixed socio-economic area, with an average proportion of pupils having special educational needs. The school site is well maintained, with spacious grounds and a playing field which is separated from the main site by a public footpath.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Hall Orchard CE Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

The school is totally committed to its Anglican foundation. There are very positive links with the parish church, other village churches and the local community. Governors, staff and pupils work closely together, in a mutually supportive Christian environment.

Established strengths

- The headteacher provides strong leadership, with a clear vision for the school.
- Each pupil is valued as an individual, and feels confident and secure within the school.
- The co-ordinator for collective worship and religious education is enthusiastic and very committed to her role.

Focus for development

- Provide an accessible area in the school grounds for quiet reflection.
- Ensure that the forthcoming review of the school's aims and mission statement emphasises the very strong Christian ethos of the school.

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

Hall Orchard has a warm, welcoming atmosphere in which pupils and adults clearly feel nurtured, both as individuals, and as part of a Christian community. Pupils speak warmly of being "part of a big family". The Christian ethos is evident in displays throughout the school. Pupils value these, and are keen to point out their own contributions. Behaviour is excellent, with pupils caring and confident both in their relationships with each other and with adults. The Lunch Bunch, a lunchtime club run by dedicated members of staff provides a warm, nurturing environment for vulnerable pupils, while others value the reward system run by lunchtime supervisors. Parents and pupils are confident that any problems will be resolved swiftly and fairly. A bible story enacted with great confidence by years 3 and 4 served to emphasise Christian principles of fairness and justice to the whole school. Pupils social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is excellent. A strong Christian ethos across the curriculum supports spiritual awareness, for example Year 6 pupils spoke movingly of their feelings as they hung origami cranes on a branch, after hearing the story of a Japanese child. All pupils are gaining awareness of cultural issues through support for a school in Ethiopia.

Working closely with Churches Together, money is being raised to fund a visit to Barrow on Soar for the Ethiopian headteacher, while staff from Hall Orchard have visited Ethiopia and taken out books, laptops and musical instruments. Pupils value having Ethiopian pen- friends, and are very aware of their different circumstances. School Councillors are confident in their role and feel that their views are respected and acted upon. A display board celebrates their recent successes. Pupils and parents are enthusiastic about the strong links with the parish church and the local Baptist and Methodist churches. Involvement in village events, inviting the community into school and singing in local residential homes allows the school to develop positive links with the local area. The school is committed to giving pupils a wide range of experience, providing links with a city school and visits to places of worship of other major world religions.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is an integral part of school life, is very well planned and follows a programme of themes which reflect the Christian calendar. Pupils enter and leave to music often provided by pupils and an interactive whiteboard with appropriate images makes worship accessible for all pupils. Quiet times for reflection and stillness with a candle providing a focal point enhance the experience, one child saying that he enjoys having time to "just sit and think". Pupils are keen to answer questions, demonstrating a mature, thoughtful attitude. The Lord's Prayer is used regularly, and each classroom has a book of prayers written by pupils, which are often used in worship. Although the vicar of Holy Trinity Church left recently, other church personnel, as well as the ministers of the Baptist and Methodist churches, regularly contribute to school worship on a rota system. Services are held in church for major Christian festivals with parents and the wider community eager to attend. A range of visitors from charities and other organisations contribute to worship, enriching the educational experience for pupils. Achievement assemblies are held to affirm pupils' personal worth. One child said, "I always feel proud when somebody gets an award because we all know each other." Effective monitoring and evaluation of worship by staff, governors and pupils serves to ensure that standards are consistently high.

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

The headteacher, supported by all staff, governors and the church, provides outstanding leadership. She is committed to the pursuit of excellence through a nurturing Christian environment, which provides opportunities for pupils to explore who they are. Foundation governors and senior staff have used the self evaluation toolkit to provide effective monitoring and evaluation of the school as an Anglican school. Ongoing reviews keep this high on the agenda and link into the school's development plan. There are plans for a review of the aims and mission statement of the school to make more explicit the very strong Christian values evident throughout the school. The co-ordinator for collective worship and religious education is knowledgeable and effective in providing support for other staff. She has produced a wealth of pictorial and written evidence to celebrate the school's Christian ethos. Governors have a structured programme for monitoring and evaluation, providing effective reports for the governing body. The co-ordinator provided extensive evidence of the school's work towards community cohesion for a recent foundation governor visit, demonstrating pupil awareness of their place in the local and global community. There are good quality resources for the teaching of Christianity and other major world religions. Parents are happy with the school and feel that their views are listened to and acted upon. Providing a Peace Garden as an outside area for quiet reflection is planned to give opportunities for pupils to experience spirituality.