



National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report



Silchester Church of England Primary School

School Lane
Silchester
Reading RG7 2NJ

Diocese: Winchester

Local authority: Hampshire

Dates of inspection: 11th February 2010

Date of last inspection: 14th November 2006

School's unique reference number: 116369

Headteacher: Susan Elliott

Inspector's name and number: Alan Brown 256

School context

Silchester Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is a small school of 169 pupils serving several villages in and around the Tadley area. The relationship with the parish is excellent and is continuing as mutually supportive and beneficial dialogue. All issues from the previous inspection have been addressed.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Silchester as a Church of England school are outstanding

Silchester Church of England School is an outstanding Church school. The leadership and management is excellent, the provision and presentation of worship and the standards and teaching in Religious Education are all of the highest quality. The ambience of the school, from the entrance through the common areas and classrooms, draws attention to its distinctive Anglican character. Pupils are intensely proud of their school, its friendly welcoming atmosphere and are enthusiastic about their relationship with their teachers.

Established strengths

1. The outstanding qualities of the governing body, headteacher and leadership team;
2. The quality of relationships across the whole school between staff and between pupils and staff;
3. The excellent planning and teaching of RE: and the organisation of Collective Worship.

Focus for development

- Involve pupils more fully in the planning of worship.

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

The governing body, headteacher and staff of Silchester school share a clear educational vision of the Christian character of the school. This vision lies at the heart of all teaching, learning and relationships making an immense contribution to the spiritual and moral development of pupils and to their understanding of key Christian values. It is primarily expressed through the quality of relationships, the presence of Christian images, prayers and symbols in the school, and the priority

given to the pupils' spiritual, emotional and moral development. The range of pupils' work in the classrooms, books and common areas are indicative of the manner in which the school encourages pupils' imagination and creativity. Pupils are fully aware of the Christian character of the school and speak confidently and positively about being at a church school. Silchester exudes vibrant energy and vigorous enthusiasm, encouraging and motivating pupils and providing a clear sense of what a church school can and should offer the communities which it serves. It is a welcoming, caring educational community where Christian virtues of reconciliation and justice are central.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

'All of us pay attention when we pray'. A pupil's comment indicates that worship has a central role in the life of the school. It is inclusive and engages all pupils regardless of background. The themes selected for worship are well supported by a range of good, stimulating resources providing staff with confidence to build on the experience of the pupils. Pupils become familiar with the main events of the Christian year and the variety of ways in which Christians and Anglicans in particular, express their faith. They find worship interesting, creative and well planned and it can be inspiring as they proceed on their spiritual journey. Pupils would, however, like to play a greater part in directing and planning worship. There was a delightful act of worship with Year R on theme of 'Helping' and two other moving and thoughtful and thought-provoking acts of worship in Year 2 and Year 6. Pupils commented spontaneously on their appreciation of the contribution of the clergy and other visitors.

The effectiveness of the religious education is outstanding

The standards in Religious Education are high as are the expectations of the pupils. Very good progress is made across each key stage. RE is often the leading focus for the whole school curriculum providing the links between other curriculum areas. Silchester has an articulate and thoughtful RE coordinator who, with the headteacher, has ensured that creative and imaginative RE has become a central core aspect of this church school. All pupils interviewed said how much they liked and enjoyed RE and felt challenged by the work. There are excellent RE displays and careful recording is made of each pupil's work with attention being drawn to strengths and areas for development. Resources are very good and appropriate in order to support the RE curriculum. Pupils enjoy RE because of the quality of teaching and the range of content in the RE curriculum: they especially like learning about the different religions. All the teaching observed was excellent with some very imaginative approaches to the miracles, the Jewish festival of Purim and to enduring Christian values.

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

The headteacher has a clear vision of the values a Church of England school should promote and how these can be presented with a robust sense of purpose, energy and enthusiasm. Staff and governors engage in regular self-evaluation reviews in order to create a more effective church school. There is an infectious atmosphere of love for learning and teaching throughout the school with Christian values at the heart. The school ensures pupils are aware of the needs of their local communities as well as other national and international concerns and pupils recognise the importance of Christian support for those in need or in a position of disadvantage. Pupils identify with the vibrant purpose and energy emanating from the staff, *'I like learning here; it is a friendly and happy place'*. There are outstanding opportunities for spiritual and moral development in Silchester School which finds practical expression in the developing maturity of pupils. A large majority of parents speak very positively of the way in which the school values their views and opinions and there is strong mutual support between all the partners involved in the school. Christian principles of justice, faith and service lie at the heart of the school. Pupils also speak of how their school encourages them to look beyond the school gates to the wider world. In doing so they participate in, share and promote a Christian vision of a more equitable, just and tolerant society.

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Judgement Recording Form (NSJRF)

Name of school: Silchester Church of England Primary School, School Lane, Silchester, Reading RG7 2NJ

School URN: 116369

Date of inspection: 11th February 2010

NS Inspector's Number: 256

Type of Church school: Voluntary Aided

Number of pupils: 169

Phase of education: Primary

Has Diocesan Quality Assurance been obtained for this report? Yes/No

Rating 1-4

How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church school?	1
How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?	1
How effective is the worshipping experience provided by the school?	1
How effective is the religious education?	1
How effective are the leadership and management of the school, as a church school?	1
The school meets the statutory requirement for collective acts of worship	Yes
The school meets the statutory requirement for religious education	Yes

Inspection Judgements

The school meets the statutory requirements for Collective Worship	Yes
The school meets the statutory requirements for Religious Education	Yes

How well does the school, through its distinctive character, meet the needs of all learners? Grade

To what extent do all learners feel valued and special?	1
How well do the school's Christian values impact on learners and enable them to flourish as individuals?	1
How well does the Christian ethos support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners, whether they are Christian, of other faiths and of none?	1
How are Christian values evident in the relationships between staff and learners and between staff?	1
How well is the school environment used to encourage spiritual development?	1

What is the Impact of Collective Worship on the School Community? Grade

How important is worship in the life of the school? How is it demonstrated?	1
How positive are the attitudes to collective worship?	1
To what extent do learners and staff of all faiths derive inspiration and spiritual growth and affirmation from worship?	1
How well does collective worship develop learners' understanding of Anglican faith and practice?	1

How effective is the Religious Education provided by the school? Grade

How high are standards in RE and how well do learners achieve? Why?	1
How effective are learning and teaching in RE?	1
To what extent do learners of all faiths and of none demonstrate a positive attitude towards the subject?	1
How well does RE contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners?	1
To what extent does RE promote the distinctive Christian character of the school together with an understanding of other faiths?	1
How important is RE in the life of the school and how is this demonstrated?	1

How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school? Grade

How well do the Headteacher and foundation governors promote a distinctive Christian vision for the school?	1
How effectively do the Headteacher, senior management and governors encourage, monitor and challenge the school to realise this vision?	1
How valued do staff feel and how involved in putting the vision into practice?	1
To what extent are all stakeholders, including learners and their parents, involved in evaluating the school's progress?	1
How effective is the partnership between the school, the church and the local community including parents?	1