

National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Report

Sutton Veny Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

High Street,
Sutton Veny,
Warminster,
Wilts,
BA12 7AP

Diocese: Salisbury

Local authority: Wiltshire
Date of inspection: 11th July 2012
Date of last inspection: 18th July 2007
School's Unique Reference Number: 126362
Headteacher: Miss Rachael Brotherton
Inspector's name and number: Mr Mark Stratta 737

School context

Sutton Veny Church of England Primary School is a rural school of 174 pupils. The majority of children are of White British heritage, with a small proportion (9.8%) coming from minority ethnic groups. 70% of children attend from outside the catchment area. 15% are from military families. A new Headteacher was appointed in March 2010.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Sutton Veny Primary School as a Church of England school are outstanding

A vibrant ethos successfully combines the pursuit of excellence with a living out of gospel values to ensure that children are happy, thrive and succeed. Learners and their families are at the heart of the school's mission. The highly effective leadership combined with the strong links with the church and the local community mean that the school is well placed to continue to develop.

Established strength

- The outstanding quality of relationships between all members of the school community, which are based upon a shared understanding of Christian values that are lived out daily.
- The very strong partnership that exists between the school, church and local community.
- The unique heritage of the *Anzac* link and the *Connecting Spirits* project which broadens children's perspective.

Focus for development

- Provide more opportunities for children to plan and lead collective worship.
- Improve opportunities to nurture and develop pupil's spiritual development using the outdoor environment.
- Develop children's understanding of the church as a global community.

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

Christian values are embedded and lived out by the whole school community. Children talk warmly about a range of values such as friendship, courage, compassion, humility, trust and forgiveness and they can effectively articulate how these values impact upon their lives. They feel valued and special. Behaviour is excellent. There is a high level of care and mutual respect which is reflected in the quality of relationships that exist between all members of the school community and this was clearly evident throughout the day. A tangible commitment to

excellence and enjoyment drives the delivery of a wide range of enrichment activities and clubs beyond the purely academic so that the 'whole' child is catered for. The school encourages pupils to 'Reach for the Stars' and in so doing provides extensive opportunities for children to develop their physical, artistic, dramatic and musical interests. Imaginative and innovative projects, such as recently using the local theatre to host the school production of Joseph and His Technicolour Dreamcoat, provide children with memorable, rich, high quality learning experiences. Pupils greatly appreciate these opportunities and the care that they receive. They are emphatic that, 'Our teachers are special' and 'understanding'. Parents report that children feel safe and happy and that staff often go 'beyond the call of duty'. All teachers are approachable, open and accessible so that any issues are quickly discussed and resolved. Pupils are very well supported to become responsible citizens as exemplified during a PSHE lesson where older children were learning about democracy and groups of people. Younger children were learning about what makes good listening skills because everyone is unique and special and has the right to be listened to. Christian symbols and exciting, vibrant displays support the ethos of the school and a prayer tree makes a significant impact upon pupils' spiritual development. Whilst children do make use of quiet outside areas, there is potential to develop these more explicitly as spiritual gardens.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

Worship is regarded as a key element of school life and has a significant impact on children's and adults' spiritual development. Christian symbols form an appropriate focal point and music is used sensitively to create a calm respectful atmosphere. The strong ethos of caring within the school is exemplified by the way in which reception children sit with their Year 6 'buddies' during worship times. This gives a very special feeling of community which embodies the ethos of the school. The use of the 'Values for Life' scheme supports the schools own values and helps to reinforce their importance to children. Children have a very positive attitude towards worship and talk enthusiastically about the contributions of staff, visitors and the vicar who provides excellent support by leading on a regular basis. Pupils greatly enjoy the special services in the church such as Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and particularly the annual Anzac service. Parents value the regular opportunities to join the weekly celebration worship and also services at other times in the church. These are very well attended. As a result, collective worship is a varied and highly positive experience for the whole worshipping community. The subject leader gives strong leadership. She plans themes, provides resources for teaching staff and regularly meets with children to evaluate the quality and impact of worship. However, few opportunities exist at present for children to plan and lead worship. Nevertheless, everyone values the fact that their opinions are sought and acted upon, for example, when the children suggested that it would be good to hold worship outside sometimes – weather permitting! Regular evaluation therefore ensures that there are continual improvements in the delivery and content of worship.

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

The headteacher provides excellent leadership. Staff and governors are very clear about their vision for the school and are driven by a common goal – 'to value, care for, guide and support each child to help them realise their potential.' The mission statement was reviewed last year and all members of the school community know that they are valued team members with a part to play. Views are sought using formal and informal methods, including parent forums, so that everyone has a voice. The School Council meet regularly and take their role very seriously because they know that they are listened to and can make a positive difference. Children are rightly proud of their achievements in fund raising for charities and in other improvements such as additional outdoor games equipment. Parents feel that they are very well informed because of the excellent communication within the school. They also note that staff are excellent role models because of the way they live out the school's values. Efficient self evaluation enables everyone to have a very good understanding of the school's current position and what needs to be done next. Particular priorities for strengthening church school distinctiveness are clearly identified within the School Development Plan. The

leadership and management of RE is very strong and effective. As a result, children achieve in line with other core subjects and make outstanding progress. Lessons fully reinforce school values, for example, where Y2 were learning about how Jesus showed friendship. A commitment to professional development fosters mutually beneficial links with Bath Spa University and Wiltshire College which also provide opportunities to nurture staff leadership skills. Excellent partnership between church, school and the wider community support and enrich the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Sutton Veny as a church school. The vicar provides very effective pastoral links. Every child visits Salisbury Cathedral at least twice during their time at the school so that they understand that they belong to a wider church community, the diocese. The school has an active link with the Australian High Commission and an Australian school through the 'Connecting Spirits' project. This is a distinctive feature of the school which provides another dimension to stimulate children's engagement. The school has identified the need for children to understand more about the Christian church as a global community. Sutton Veny school has an excellent reputation in the local area and all members regard it as a special place.

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